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FILLED WEIGHT: 4162 lbs / 1888 kg
WATER CAPACITY:
403 US gallons / 1525 L



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SEATING:
6 people, plus one cooling seat
DIMENSIONS:
80" x 88" x 38" / 203cm x 224cm x 97cm
DRY WEIGHT: 675 lbs / 306 kg
FILLED WEIGHT: 3470 lbs / 1574 kg
WATER CAPACITY:
335 US gallons / 1268 L



720 SLB AIR

85-147 FULLY CUSTOMIZABLE FLEXJETS

SEATING:
7 people, plus one cooling seat
DIMENSIONS:
80" x 88" x 38" / 203cm x 224cm x 97cm
DRY WEIGHT: 675 lbs / 306 kg
FILLED WEIGHT: 3695 lbs / 1676 kg
WATER CAPACITY:
362 US gallons / 1370 L



715 SLB AIR

91-143 FULLY CUSTOMIZABLE FLEXJETS

SEATING:
4 people, plus two cooling seats
DIMENSIONS:
70" x 86" x 38" / 178cm x 218cm x 97cm
DRY WEIGHT: 700 lbs / 317 kg
FILLED WEIGHT: 3037 lbs / 1377 kg
WATER CAPACITY:
280 US gallons / 1060 L

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Photo: Heather Fritz

Cover: Renovating a 100-year-old home reveals surprises and strength, both in the house and the homeowners. Brandon and Raychel Moore, with daughter Jorja. Story begins pg. 25. Photo: Heather Fritz

HOME Front



Hat from Saskatoon's own Sova Design Millinery. Flowers from Grower Direct.

Photo of Amanda Soulodre by Heather Fritz

Ahh, the season when proclamations of affection abound! I, too, have my own confession to make. I. Love. Saskatoon. There, I've said it! This is my hometown, and my husband Rob and I are proud to raise our two boys in this familiar yet ever changing city. Another thing I love is Saskatoon HOME and the stories that make you happy to be a Saskatonian. Whether you've been here from birth or you're a welcome transplant from near or far, there is so much to appreciate, enjoy and learn about our City of Bridges. Saskatoon HOME celebrates this place we love and we like to think each issue is a special renewal of our vows.

And how do we love thee? If we can borrow from Elizabeth B.B., let's count the ways. Thanks to our wonderful reader panel, our Spring issue is full of tasty tidbits—like our foodie column on locally sourced appetizers, hunting for fabulous furniture finds and discovering the Little Free Library, coming soon to a tree near you—and some delicious reads like edible landscaping, and the historic Drinkle Building. You'll learn how an ultra-modern home overlooking the spectacular river valley is completely automated, from heating, cooling, ventilation, in-floor heating, lights, audio, video, blinds and security. The homeowners can even answer the front door from their holiday property in Palm Springs!

Find out what's necessary in design and structure as more residential properties are built with expansive elements usually found in commercial builds. Share some empathy with a young couple who purchased a 100-year-old home—and got a big bag of the unexpected surprises. And as we start to sniff spring in the air, it is a great time to plan your new and improved deck that can turn your backyard into a coveted sanctuary.

Saskatoon is on the move in many ways, and one of them means we'll likely be a happy family of half a million by 2045. Check out what Alan Wallace, Director, Planning and Development for the City, says about how we move around our city, how we develop new neighbourhoods and how we invest in the existing ones. It's all in Saskatoon's *Growing Forward* plan. You should check out what's on the horizon.

So here we are already. Spring 2015! Savour it! There's so much more to come.

AMANDA SOULODRE
OWNER & PUBLISHER

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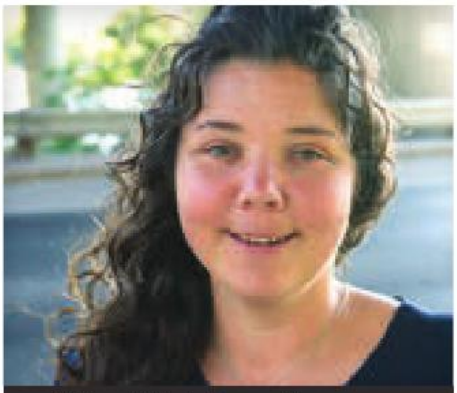
Thank You To Our Spring Issue Reader Panel



Corey Bell
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GM Bell International Trucks



Darla M. Tenold
Lawyer and Mediator



Elise Hildebrandt
Mortgage Associate,
The Mortgage Centre



Karen Turner
Director,
Turner Event Management



Liane Dagenais
Corporate Representative,
Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation (CMHC)



Tyler Kachur
Partner,
Buckberger Baerg & Partners LLP

How the Reader Panel Works

#1 The publisher sends each panel member a number of story ideas.

#2 Each panel member rates the ideas from most interesting to least interesting.

#3 The answers from all six panel members are cross referenced.

#4 The highest rated stories are selected, and our writers and photographers are then assigned to bring those stories to life.

#5 For each issue, a new panel of 6 volunteers is selected.

Interested in being on a future panel? Email: amanda@saskatoon-home.ca with 'Reader Panel' in the subject line.



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ASHLEIGH MATTERN RICHARD SCHWIER

THE LITTLE FREE LIBRARY MOVEMENT

Taking Root in Saskatoon

Little Free Libraries are popping up all over the world, and the movement has made its way to Saskatoon.

Lovingly handcrafted or creatively built, these tiny structures usually appear on residential street corners, filled with books free to borrow and banking on the honour system that they'll be returned. They seem almost magical—just the sort of thing a helpful elf would concoct.

But of course, there are actual people behind the projects, volunteers who take the time to ensure the shelves are full and the books are protected from the elements.

In Saskatoon, Jeff MacDonald is one of those helpers. He created the Haultain Little Free Library, funding the materials through a Kickstarter campaign in the fall of 2013, building it in his garage over the winter and posting it on the boulevard by his house in the spring of 2014.

Jeff says the boulevard is the perfect location. Neighbours are more comfortable stopping at the boulevard than they might feel walking onto his property, but it's close enough that he can check the stock and say hello to anyone who stops by.

The Haultain library holds about 30 books. During the warmer months of the year, Jeff says people stop by daily.

"All of the neighbours on the block have mentioned it when I see them," he said. "One guy even thanked me for putting it there."

Along with the Haultain Little Free Library, there's one at 14th Street and Bottomley Avenue and another at the co-working space, The Two Twenty, on 20th Street. There was one on Avenue J, but that library was woefully destroyed by vandalism following a rowdy New Year's Eve party.

LittleFreeLibrary.org, a non-profit organization that spreads the word about the movement, says incidents of vandalism are rare, but do happen from time to time.

While vandalism might be a concern, stolen books are not, said Jeff. "Maybe people have taken books and not brought them back, but if someone really wants to take a book, they can take it."

Many people have asked Jeff about donating books to the Haultain Little Free Library, but there's simply no more room. Instead, Jeff encourages people to set up their own library.

"You can build them very cheaply and simply," he said. "I would love it if there were multiple ones in different neighbourhoods. I would love it if my books showed up in other libraries." Some of the Haultain books have dedications to the people who donated them, and stickers marking them as the property of the Haultain Little Free Library.

Little Free Libraries have especially picked up speed with the creation of LittleFreeLibrary.org. The organization has premade libraries for purchase, and allows libraries to officially register as a Little Free Library.

Do you have too many books piling up in your house? Maybe the solution is posting your own Little Free Library.

Ashleigh Mattern

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ARBUTUS PROPERTIES



SASK CRESCENT MODERN

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After 15 years of acreage living south of Saskatoon, running a company of 150 employees strong, maintaining a lake cottage and a property in California, the owners of Capilano Developments Inc., decided they were ready for a change. Too young for "condo life" with its restrictions and relative lack of the privacy they enjoyed on the acreage, the couple settled on a dream location in Saskatoon: 934 Saskatchewan Crescent East near the top of the University Bridge with a spectacular river and cityscape view.

"We called our realtor Clark Dziadyk early on asking him to watch the market for the areas we would consider our perfect location," the homeowners say. Using a realtor who can keep an eye on up and coming listings is critical, they add. "Being an expert realtor in the city, Clark found out about this 1923-built, 1650 square foot house on the riverbank as soon as it hit the market, and we moved fast to make an offer."



KARIN MELBERG SCHWIER HEATHER FRITZ

"We didn't think twice since the location was perfect for us."

What wasn't perfect was the house's crumbling foundation, and it was decided salvage was not an option. Plans began to take shape for a new build and the couple began to list the elements they wanted to include in a home they would enjoy and be comfortable in throughout their retirement years.

The Must-Have List

"Some of the key ➤

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elements we wanted to see in our new house included an elevator, a rear double attached garage—a rare feature in the area—an exercise space, windows to take the best advantage of the views, patio heating systems for outdoor use for extended months, an entertainment and games room, wide wheelchair-accessible hallways, a barbecue area adjacent to an open and fully-equipped kitchen, a convenient butler's pantry for entertaining and a basement ready for future development."

Because of its proximity to the riverbank, the homeowners had extensive soil and slump testing done and then Maca Broda Engineering ensured the house was built to withstand ground movement. An anchoring system of screw piles, concrete shear walls composed of braced panels and an insulated foundation gives the homeowners confidence the house can "withstand whatever Saskatchewan conditions can throw at it."

The resulting modern design is 4,800 square feet on two levels plus basement, with total electrical, mechanical and IT home automation. Its distinctive full window concept across the front affords a breathtaking view of the river valley, and extensive planning was done to ensure key areas of the property expose the views to their maximum potential when looking from the inside out.

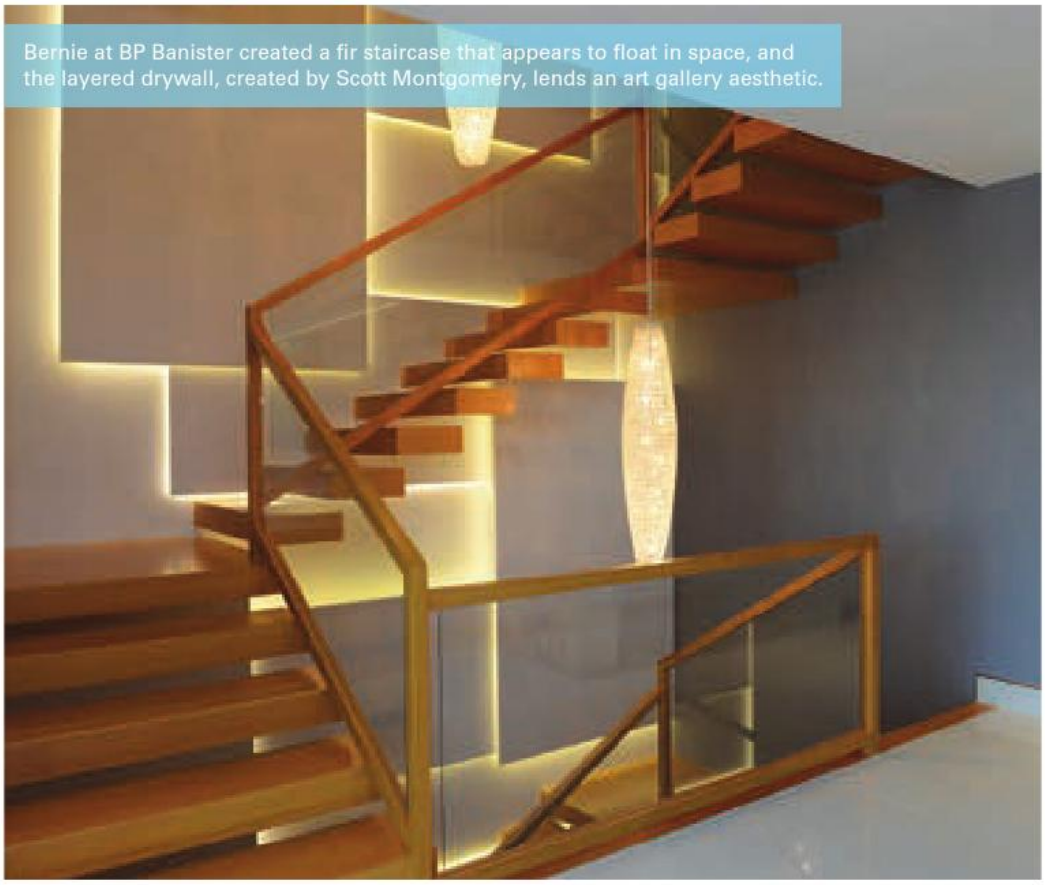
In addition to the amazing view from every room on the front side of the home, the layout, finishing materials, textures and colour pallets blend beautifully together to create a modern space with a comfortable and inviting appeal sometimes lacking in modern design.



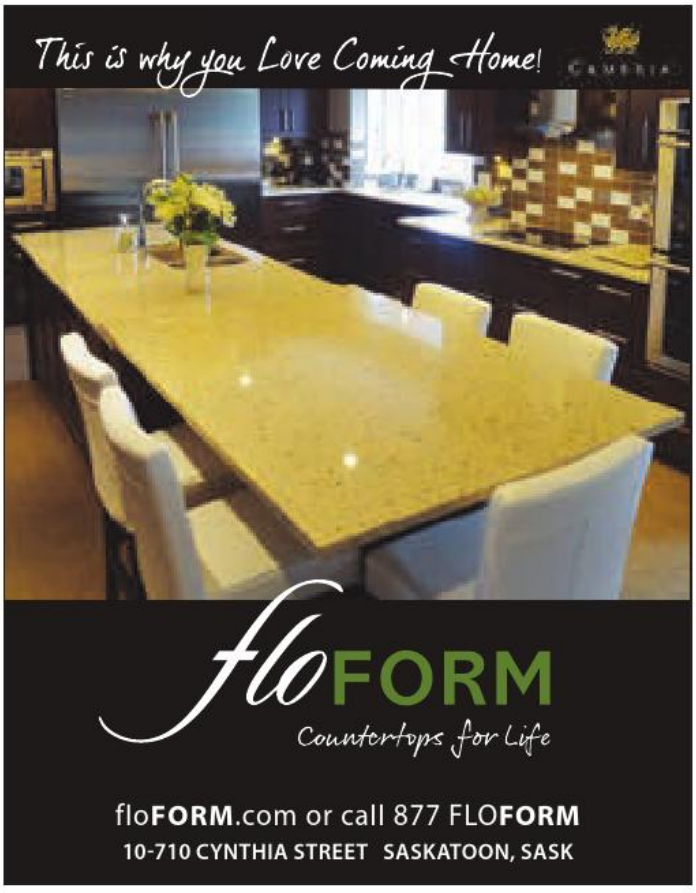
The Beauty of Well Designed Cabinetry

"Typically projects of this scope demand focus and are more time intensive, but they are some of our favorite projects as we like to problem solve" says Perry Matwishyn, owner of Penny Lane Cabinetry and Design. "Respecting their vision while taking it through the practicalities of design, manufacturing and installation is a fundamental part of the process." Perry worked with the homeowners to design millwork and cabinetry faithful to their dream home and offered them added ultra-modern perks like handle-less drawers that open and close with a mere touch.

"I think we added millwork touches in every room in this house except the elevator, which came prefinished," says Perry. "The challenge is ➤



Bernie at BP Banister created a fir staircase that appears to float in space, and the layered drywall, created by Scott Montgomery, lends an art gallery aesthetic.



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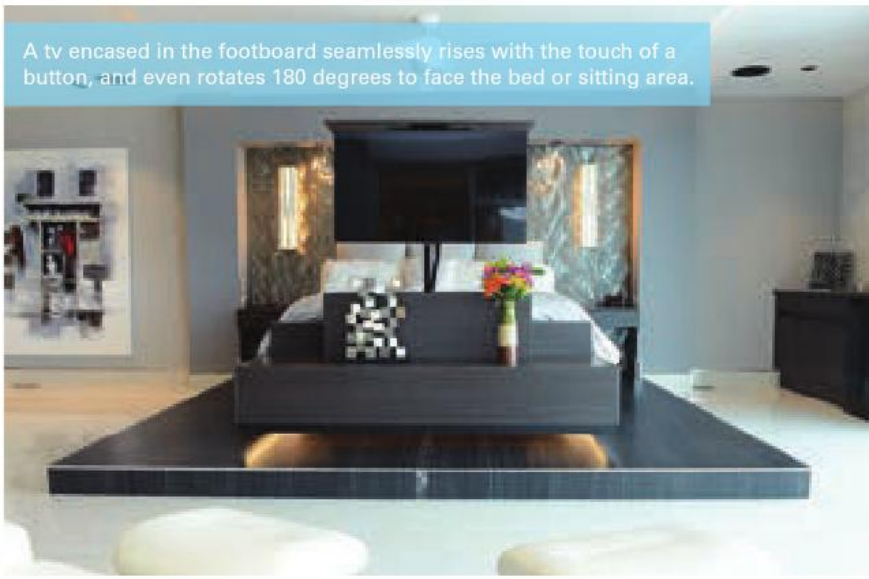


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Darren McConnell, Humboldt Electric, and Ryan Kolibab, Kolibab Mechanical, "made it all come together. Darren supplied automated blinds, LED lighting and traveled extensively in Canada and the U.S. to find perfect lighting for every area."





A tv encased in the footboard seamlessly rises with the touch of a button, and even rotates 180 degrees to face the bed or sitting area.

always to make it tasteful and functional at the same time."

In keeping with the sleek open concept and modern style of the Saskatchewan Crescent home, Perry and his crew worked on both subtle and obvious design details. Inverted steps on the kitchen island and living room bar mimic the natural erosion of the riverbank, and a cantilevered frame makes the master bed appear to be floating over a raised floor. Layered Douglas Fir bulkheads over the kitchen cabinetry add a linear look, echo the cantilevered stair treads while adding texture and backlighting for ambiance. The more obvious design details include the expansive range hood, four-inch thick kitchen countertops in the kitchen, plus six-inch thick countertops for the vanities, all with what are referred to as 'waterfalls.' Over 1700 hours went into the design, manufacturing and installing of the cabinetry and millwork.

The mirror-like high gloss





Penny Lane installed electric motion Servo drive drawers for handle-less cabinetry throughout the kitchen, eliminating any knobs or pulls. A mere touch tells the drawer to open or close.

finish on the cabinetry was produced with the same European technology that Steinway, the piano manufacturer in New York, uses. Penny Lane's finisher and Steinway are the only two using this technology in North America.

To add texture and warmth, wood veneers were added to avoid a sterile feel. While soft-close drawers and doors on cabinetry are becoming common, Penny Lane went above and beyond to install electric motion Servo ➤

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drive drawers for handle-less cabinetry. At the touch of a finger, drawers glide open and shut. Hidden when not in use, built-in televisions rise up out of custom designed cabinetry at a command from the automated system, any of the remote controls, or with an iPhone.

"The homeowners wanted us to design their cabinetry to be very unique and personal," says Perry. "They wanted good taste, and functional with ergonomic benefit."

And the result matched the vision perfectly. "The smooth lines, classy yet modern and sleek look, nothing busy, was what we envisioned. The motorized drawers make our cabinetry more functional than we ever imagined. We wanted 'one of a kind' and that's what we have," say the homeowners.

But touchless open ➤

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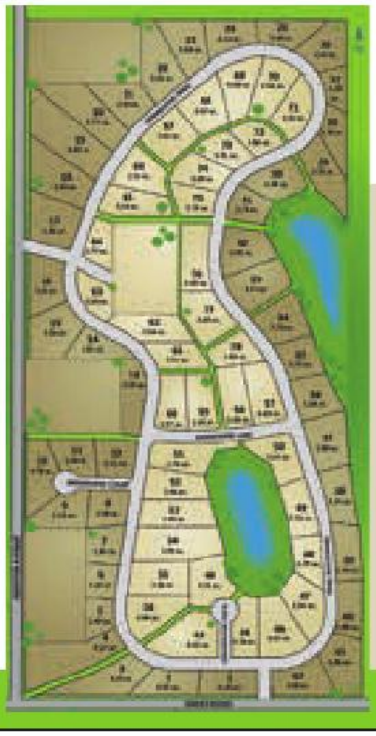
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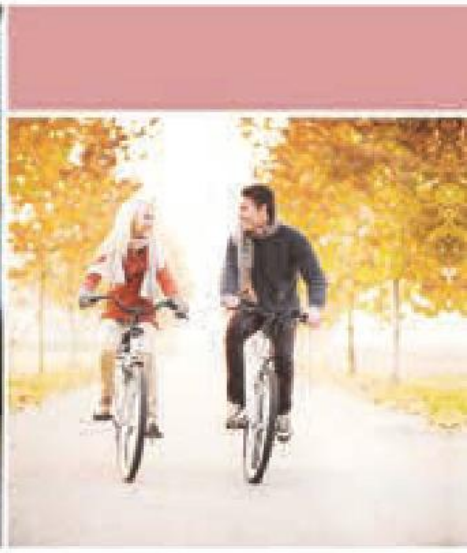




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cabinetry is just a taste of the technology elements in this home.

The Brilliance of Technology

Remember *The Jetsons*? *Minority Report*? HAL from *2001: A Space Odyssey*? *Star Trek* (or *Wars*)? The fantastic stuff of science fiction is finding its way into our homes.

"Home run design describes the strategy for controlling a variety of functions in the home from a centralized system," says Chuck Ingerman of Signature Home Automation, Inc. Chuck worked closely with the homeowners and several suppliers and trades to orchestrate the integration of all the systems that "keep the house alive."

The homeowners had a pretty clear vision about what they wanted, based on a connected system in their house near Palm Springs. They wanted to take those cool and convenient aspects and expand upon them. They told Chuck they wanted it to be "functional and allow easy control of multiple systems like heating, cooling, ventilation, in-floor heating, lights, audio, video, blinds and security. The homeowners have unbelievable imaginations," says Chuck, "and they wanted to make sure it would tie it all together seamlessly."

Discreet smart panels on the wall are the controls used to initiate various functions. There are also portable handheld units that can serve the same purpose from anywhere in the house. This system runs off its own private mesh network that doesn't use or interfere with wi-fi frequencies. In fact, the entire house can be directed from the owners' iPad from their home in California. Not only can they adjust thermostats—there are 18—for two furnaces and heated floor sensors, they can turn on and off lights, raise or lower blinds, play music or turn off the TV from just about anywhere on the planet, they can also have a nice chat if someone shows up in the back garden or at the front door. The security system snaps a picture of who pressed the doorbell, the homeowners get an alert notice, have a look and can ask in real time, "How can we help you?" all from thousands of miles away.

"I can talk all day about the technical work that goes on behind the scenes and I'm sure a lot of people will hear Charlie Brown's teacher as their eyes glaze over," Chuck laughs. "But we sit down and simply ask clients, 'What would you like to be able to do?' We describe what can happen. You tell your system you want to watch TV, so the TV rises up out of the cabinet, the TV comes on and the room lights dim because it's all tied together. You want to listen to the football game in the bathroom so you press that button. You want to check the security camera at the front door. You want





This stunning fireplace creates a visual divide within the space while allowing unobstructed views from the kitchen and dining room. It was installed using a unique downdraft system.

the in-floor heating to come on in the ensuite. You want ambient lighting at prescribed levels at 8 p.m. We walk people through different scenarios and customize to fit their lifestyle."

In the End

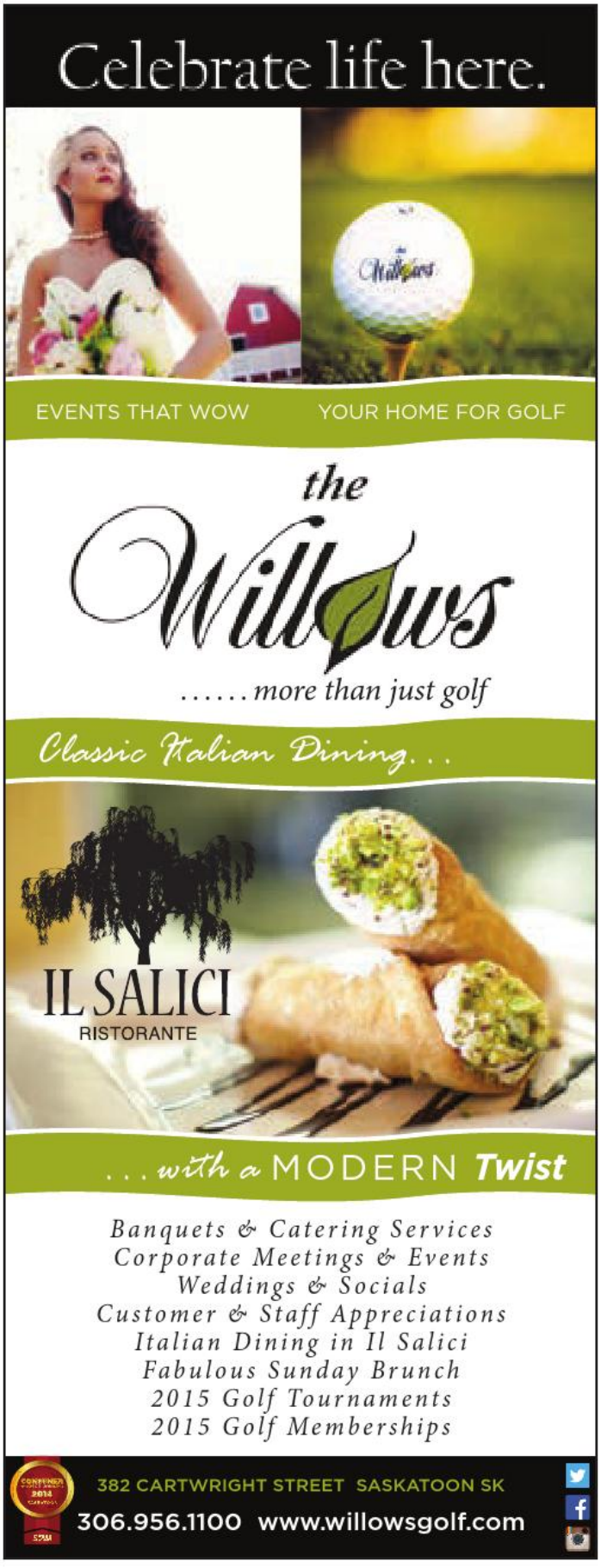
"All the trades that worked on the property were hand-picked. We believe Saskatchewan was built on trust and integrity. It's how we ran our business and how we operate Capilano Developments," the homeowners say. "We remember a few years ago, the *Calgary Herald* ran an article about people leaving Saskatchewan that said, 'The last person out turn off the lights.' Well, we stayed, along with about million other people, and we're proud we did. This will always be home and we look forward to the balance of our years in a house that covers our needs as we age. And we built it in such a way that we can enjoy our home fully 365 days a year."

Karin Melberg Schwier

TECHNOLOGY HEARTBEAT

The home automation in this Sask Crescent home includes:

- Real time video surveillance, security and intercom system
- Multi-room audio
- Video switching matrix transports video from multiple sources to multiple displays
- PowerTV lifts for televisions hidden in cabinetry in three areas of the home
- Lighting automation controls
- Heating, ventilation and air conditioning (HVAC) automation
- 7.1 Home theater
- Window covering automation





KARIN MELBERG SCHWIER | HEATHER FRITZ

COMMERCIAL MEETS RESIDENTIAL

Floor to Ceiling Glass

As residential house designs evolve, so do the requirements necessary to provide homeowners with some of the aesthetics they desire. Vast glass fronts and industrial touches usually associated with office buildings and other commercial ventures are becoming more common as builders and homeowners work together to create something that sets a residential build apart from its more traditional neighbours.

"There's very little that can't be done these days," says Justin Wotherspoon, Principal architect with SEPW Architecture Inc. in Saskatoon, and the architect involved in planning 934 Saskatchewan Crescent East. The appeal of modern design is growing and it's a style that lends itself to more expansive glazed surfaces—windows. Architects and builders are working with the issues associated with glass of this magnitude and the reinforcements such elements require. There are many other commercial type features that are finding their way into residential homes.

"I prefer to call it a modern aesthetic rather than industrial or commercial," says Justin. "Historically it's been difficult to provide the large glazed areas that owners may seek when they want a more modern aesthetic or a view, especially with the typical residential windows made of PVC or wood. This is changing, but residential window manufacturers have until recently been

COMMERCIAL COMES HOME

Architect Justin Wotherspoon describes a few additional elements traditionally associated with commercial and industrial builds that now find their way into private homes.

1. Internal elevators (or the rough-in for a future elevator) and/or dumbwaiters to assist with aging issues.
2. Exterior cladding materials—prefinished metals in both siding and panel style profiles are becoming more common.
3. Raw interior finishes—exposed (yet clear sealed) building materials normally covered by other materials are left exposed like concrete (floors/counters), plywood (walls/floors) and stainless steel.
4. Non-combustible construction—typically reserved for commercial buildings, constructing from a steel frame, or a concrete frame with steel studs and avoiding most wood products altogether is not uncommon.
5. Exterior doors—front entries with larger doors with custom windows and the introduction of translucent commercial-style garage doors.

somewhat limited in the sizes they can provide. Commercial window manufacturers have had the ability to provide these larger sizes for some time."

"Larger panes of glass and their support systems need to be engineered by manufacturers so they can withstand wind loads associated with a glazed surface of greater size," says Justin. "As the area increases, the manufacturers have the ability to reinforce the window mullions to provide more structural support. If even greater support is required, sometimes a separate column independent of that mullion, will offer that extra stability."

While the limitations are few and far between, particularly if there are no budget constraints, considerations like reducing bird strikes, desired views, glare, potential heat loss or gain through what is essentially a glass wall and the strength of the structure all need to be discussed. Solutions to challenges with size and energy efficiency may come in the form of glazing technology, shading devices, window coverings, window placement and structural reinforcement.

"Our climate is pretty severe and so you do have to weigh the pros and cons of having a wall of glass with the owner," Justin adds. "For instance, the potential heat loss or heat gain that can result is an issue. Many times mechanical supplementation is required. As a homeowner, you may have to make some choices. If you want a spectacular view, are you willing to pay for the heat loss or compensate for the heat gain? Ideally, we don't usually want to have a huge expanse of glass without some protection to the west. But every building site is different, and if an owner wants a panoramic skyline with a sunset every evening, that's what we work with. We then try to make the proposed solution as energy efficient as possible."

Research and development departments are constantly improving the strength and R-value, the thermal resistance, of window glass. If there is a budget to accommodate a homeowner's desire, the sky—and just about any other view—is the limit.

Karin Melberg Schwier





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BRANDON MOORE & KARIN MELBERG SCHWIER HEATHER FRITZ

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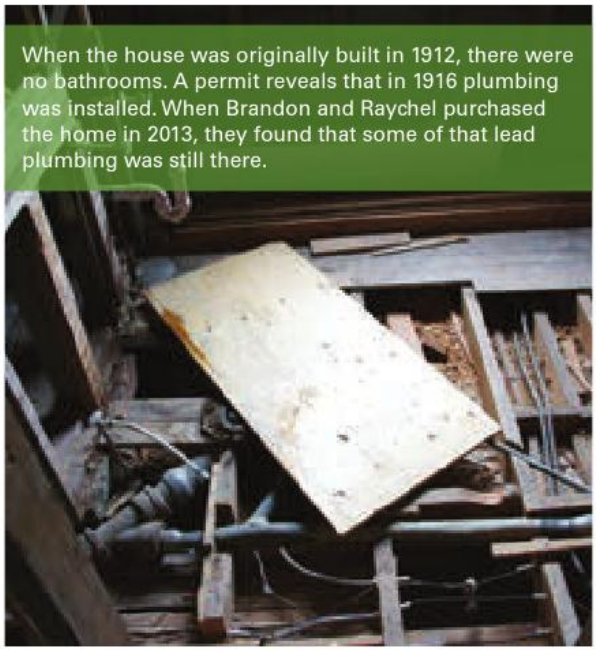
From an early age, most of us have invested some serious thought into what our lives will look like, the type of person that we might marry and where we'll eventually sink our roots. Most of us eventually discover that our dreams have a complete mind of their own.

For Brandon and Raychel, their dream involved starting a family in a well-established neighbourhood with lots of charm and character. The kind with sunlight slanting through the giant elm canopy along treed streets, traditional Arts and Crafts homes with big front porches, real masonry and stone construction, handcrafted stained glass and architectural detail that you just don't see in today's newer neighbourhoods.

Brandon runs a niche-marketing firm called Black Dog Republic, which helps developers take large projects to market in Saskatchewan. He also helps families buy and sell residential real estate, so he knows all the nooks and crannies of Saskatoon, which helped to lead him to his home.

"We understand that one person's opinion of their dream neighbourhood can really differ from the next," said Brandon. "When Raychel and I decided to go long on Saskatoon,


Before.


When the house was originally built in 1912, there were no bathrooms. A permit reveals that in 1916 plumbing was installed. When Brandon and Raychel purchased the home in 2013, they found that some of that lead plumbing was still there.


After.

building our businesses and raising our family here, there really was only one small area of the city that captivated us." That area was the peninsula on the river at the very west end of 8th Street, a charming almost undiscovered area of Nutana, full of history and character.

Making the Move

"Nine years ago when we were newly married and had just moved to the city, we used to drive down to Saskatchewan Crescent West and walk our dog," says Brandon. "We'd head into Gabriel Dumont Park, relax on the sand bar by the river and then walk around, picturing which house was ours and how many kids we'd have playing in the yard. The neighbourhood had everything we wanted. To top it off, the culture and urban lifestyle that Broadway and downtown provided were within five to 10 minutes walking distance."

"With a toddler and a baby on the way, we finally felt established enough to make a move, so we jumped in without hesitation," adds Raychel. "We had a vision about what the area will be in years to come, but our 100-year-old house and the size of the renovation came with a cost that neither of us anticipated."

I Can Do This

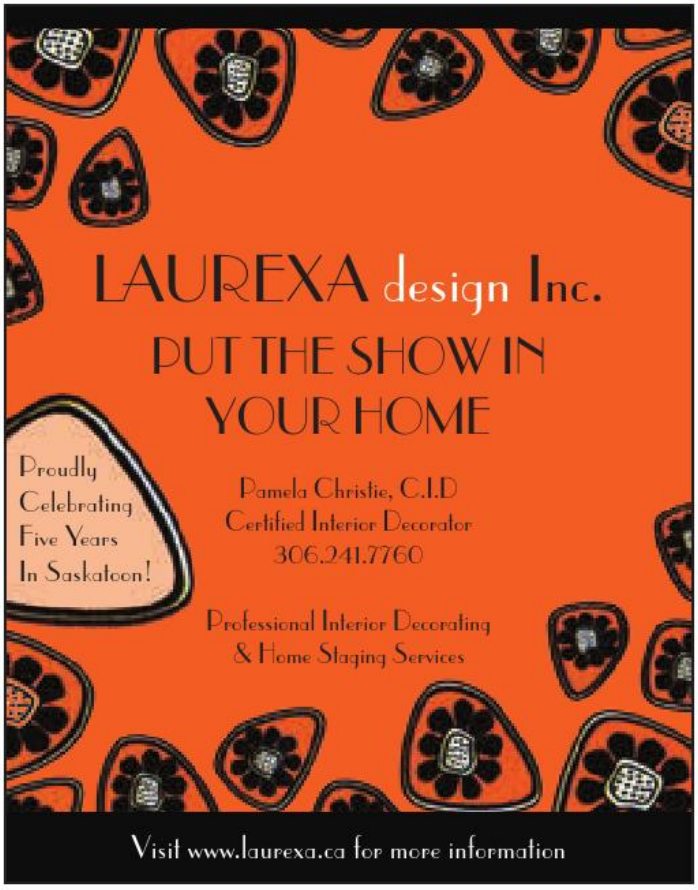
After wrapping up a development launch in Waskesiu, the timing seemed right for Brandon to take on the reno project himself.

"I thought I would take a six month sabbatical to tackle it. My background is in real estate marketing, but how hard could handling the construction side of things really be?" says Brandon. Is that just a hint of sarcasm in his voice?

Like any self-respecting family man, Brandon decided he would tear the house apart with his own two hands and then put it back together for his family to enjoy. After all, it was "only a measly 3,600 square foot renovation that required a complete gut and overhaul to the plumbing, heating and electrical with just a dash of major structural changes." He laughs. "Like I said, how hard can it be?"

Life Imitates Art

"Do you remember that 1986 movie, *The Money Pit*, where Tom Hanks buys a beautiful fixer upper? Then he just about kills himself, let alone his wife, as he goes off the deep end tackling his renovation. Well, that was our experience in a nutshell," laments Brandon. "Hind sight is always 20/20. Clearly the project would ➤



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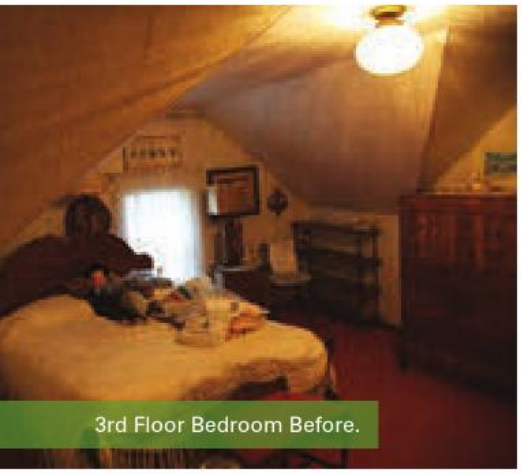
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3rd Floor Bedroom Before.





have been a lot for a seasoned general contractor to bite off. One thing that I had on my side though, was an absolute mastery of learning things the hard way. And YouTube."

Getting a Good Start

Before diving in, Brandon and Raychel wisely took time to build a plan.

"Hiring an architect and structural engineer were the two best decisions we made," says Raychel. "We want to still be here when we're old and grey, so we wanted to do it right. I know that we avoided many mistakes, complications, even potential disaster, by spending a lot of time and money up front to develop a proper renovation road map."

When renovating a 100-year-old home, the couple learned quickly that even though one may have clearly defined outcomes, even the most carefully laid plans will usually veer off into unchartered territory. Even after hiring two separate companies to do a house inspection, there were nasty surprises that were not flagged for the homeowners.

"We knew there were inherent risks in purchasing a home built in 1912, but we were still surprised to find things like live knob and tube wiring and original lead plumbing," Brandon admits. "Not because these things are uncommon, but because we were assured that everything had been updated before we purchased. You really can't verify these things until you







3rd Floor Bedroom After.

start opening up walls and tearing off subfloors."

When Brandon punched through into a sealed off attic (now the master bedroom), there was clear damage from water coming in that someone had concealed. After finding three separate types of vermiculite insulation, the couple decided to relocate to a hotel for a week while their new purchase was tested for asbestos. After a nervous 10 day wait, the results were clear—asbestos free. Great news! But that relief didn't last long.

When Brandon realized he'd better go to City Hall himself and pull permits on the house, he discovered that very few permits had been issued since the original house was built in 1912. It was a sinking discovery since he knew there had been various renovations over the years, some as recent as 2009. As he tore into the first of the upper rooms, he discovered that when work had been done in the 1950s or '60s, ceilings were dropped and walls layered *on top* of the existing studs and drywall.

"Rather than taking a room back to the studs, they had just built a new room," Brandon says. In the second floor bathroom, removing that second wall layer revealed shelving and cabinetry built between studs that had simply been covered.

As he explored further, he was alarmed to find an exterior wall completely without insulation on the second floor, aside from few tufts of ➤





Tip Learned the Hard Way:
When facing off with old wallpaper, particularly when there is more than one layer of it, you may be far better off to demo the drywall. This will save you hundreds of hours and will give you a perfectly smooth surface, free of dents and dings.





hoarse hair around a window.

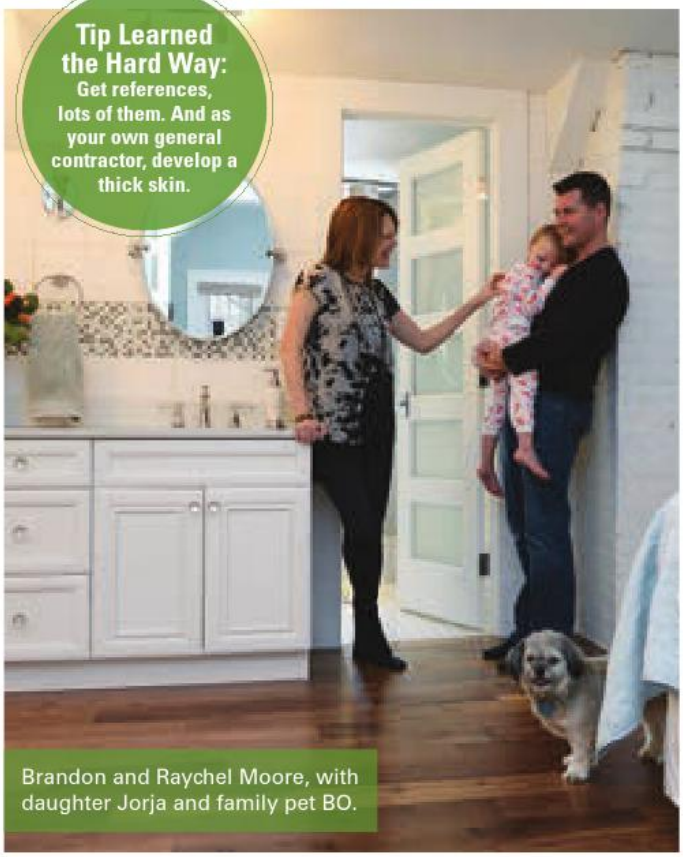
While the insulation was lacking, wall coverings were a different story. "At one point we estimated that we put in about 200 hours removing old school wallpaper." They even found extra layers of drywall in some areas that when torn away revealed another completely wallpapered wall. At least, he admits, it felt like they gained bonus square footage tearing down the mock wall layer.

If all that wasn't enough, just when the house was completely ripped open and the real renovation was about to begin, the couple's one-year-old daughter was diagnosed with hip dysplasia. She had surgery and was outfitted with a nearly full-body cast for four months. Raychel and their daughter relocated to her parent's farm outside of the city, thankful for the extra help, and Brandon stayed to complete the renovation.

Being Your Own General Contractor

"As much as I've mastered learning things the hard way, I still know better than to take on tasks that require professional





Brandon and Raychel Moore, with daughter Jorja and family pet BO.

tradespeople," says Brandon. "Our experience may or may not be typical, " he says, "but for every good trade we found, there were three who caused more problems than they were worth."

In his words, here are three quick lessons Brandon learned fast when hiring trades:

1. 'Journeyman' is in no way, shape or form synonymous with acting professionally. There's a reason why those who've gone through a reno advise getting a number of references.

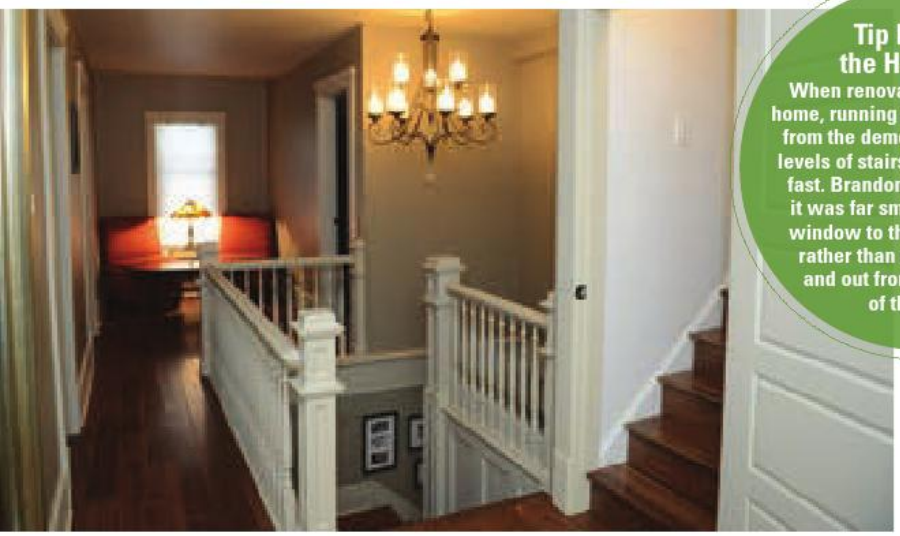
2. Always form a contractual agreement with clearly defined tasks, payment and work schedules. Details are your best friend as they protect both parties involved.

3. Ensure that the lion's share of your payment happens when the agreement is fulfilled and *after* work is deemed satisfactory.

"By the time we wrapped construction up, I had fired two separate trade companies due to blatant incompetence," said Brandon. "I caught my plumber stealing, and I even had the pleasure of personally escorting one exceptionally belligerent young tradesperson off my property." There are a lot of skilled and pleasant people who are good to work with. But dealing with incompetent and difficult tradespeople is not for the faint of heart, Brandon says, adding that people who act as their own general contractor need to have thick skin.

"The last thing I want to do is paint the construction industry all with the same brush. We really did find some great tradespeople," Brandon points out. "And I was happy to pay a premium when I found good ones. Trust me, the trades who show up, do quality work and on time to boot are worth their weight in gold." ➤





Tip Learned the Hard Way:
When renovating a multi level home, running garbage and debris from the demolition site down 2 levels of stairs will wear you out fast. Brandon eventually found it was far smarter to remove a window to throw debris down rather than carrying it down and out from the third level of the home.







Some Final DIY Advice

"My advice is simple," insists Brandon. "If you have a large scale renovation in mind, unless you build homes for a living and have time to kill, don't do it! Seriously. Aside from costing you more money than you dare imagine, your quality of life is seriously disrupted. It's not only the time; the energy you need to commit to your renovation is enormous. Renovations are not a marriage building exercise, so if you do take one on, expect a level of strain that will test even the best relationships."

Would Brandon and Raychel turn back the clock and do it again? They respond with a resounding "No!" delivered in unison, loud enough to make ears ring.

"But as contradictory as it sounds," says Raychel, "we are glad we did it. This really is our dream neighbourhood, and the house has turned out better than we had imagined. It's just that when we came up with our crazy plan, we had no idea that getting to this point would be so hard."

"We love the place," Brandon agrees. "We still have a long journey, and the kitchen and main floor are next on the list. It's been a labour of love, and it was important for me to do the first steps. I know the house like the back of my hand, but I also know when to pass the torch to good professionals," he adds. He says having developed a collection of trusted and skilled tradespeople is going to make the next phase much easier.

Like anything in life worth doing, chasing a big dream is going to be difficult. Brandon and Raychel earned their renovation stripes and their dream home, complete with figurative and literal battle scars to prove it.

Brandon Moore & Karin Melberg Schwier





COLOUR OF THE YEAR 2015

Rich, Earthy and Subtly Seductive Marsala

Photo: Courtesy of Pantone

Now here's a colour we can appreciate with gusto, a colour described as a "naturally robust and earthy wine red." Marsala is the Colour of the Year for 2015. Like its namesake, the fortified Sicilian wine, Marsala exudes a rich sophistication and yet casts a friendly welcoming warmth. Complex. Full bodied. Delicious!

Pantone (an X-Rite company) is the global colour authority. Every year they announce the hue that will influence fashion, beauty, interiors and graphic design for the coming year.

"While Pantone 18-3224 Radiant Orchid, the captivating 2014 colour of the year, encouraged creativity and innovation, Marsala enriches our mind, body and soul, exuding confidence and stability," said Leatrice (Lee) Eiseman, Executive Director of the Pantone Color Institute. Lee has spoken with Saskatoon HOME for the past few years about the Colour of the Year choice and the accompanying palette that makes up its colour predictions for the season. The author of nine books on colour, Lee has been called "one of the most influ- ➤



Photo: Courtesy of Pantone



Photo: Courtesy of Pantone

ential people in the world of colour" by *Fortune Magazine* and the *Wall Street Journal*. In case you didn't realize it before, now you know that colour is a Big Deal.

Lee Offers a Taste

"This hearty, yet stylish tone is universally appealing and translates easily to fashion, beauty, industrial design, home furnishings and interiors. Nurturing and fulfilling, Marsala is a natural fit for the kitchen and dining room—making it ideal for tabletop, small appliances and linens throughout the home," says Lee. Sounding almost like a review of a sumptuous tasting in a gourmet restaurant, Lee goes on to describe how Marsala sates a hunger to connect with an unpretentious yet vibrant tone.

"This tasteful hue embodies the satisfying richness of a fulfilling meal while its grounding red-brown roots emanate a sophisticated, natural earthiness."

En Plein Air

While Marsala gets the nod as the Colour of the ➤

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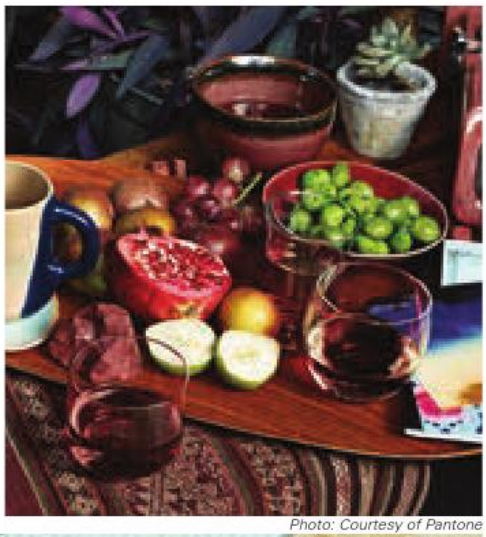


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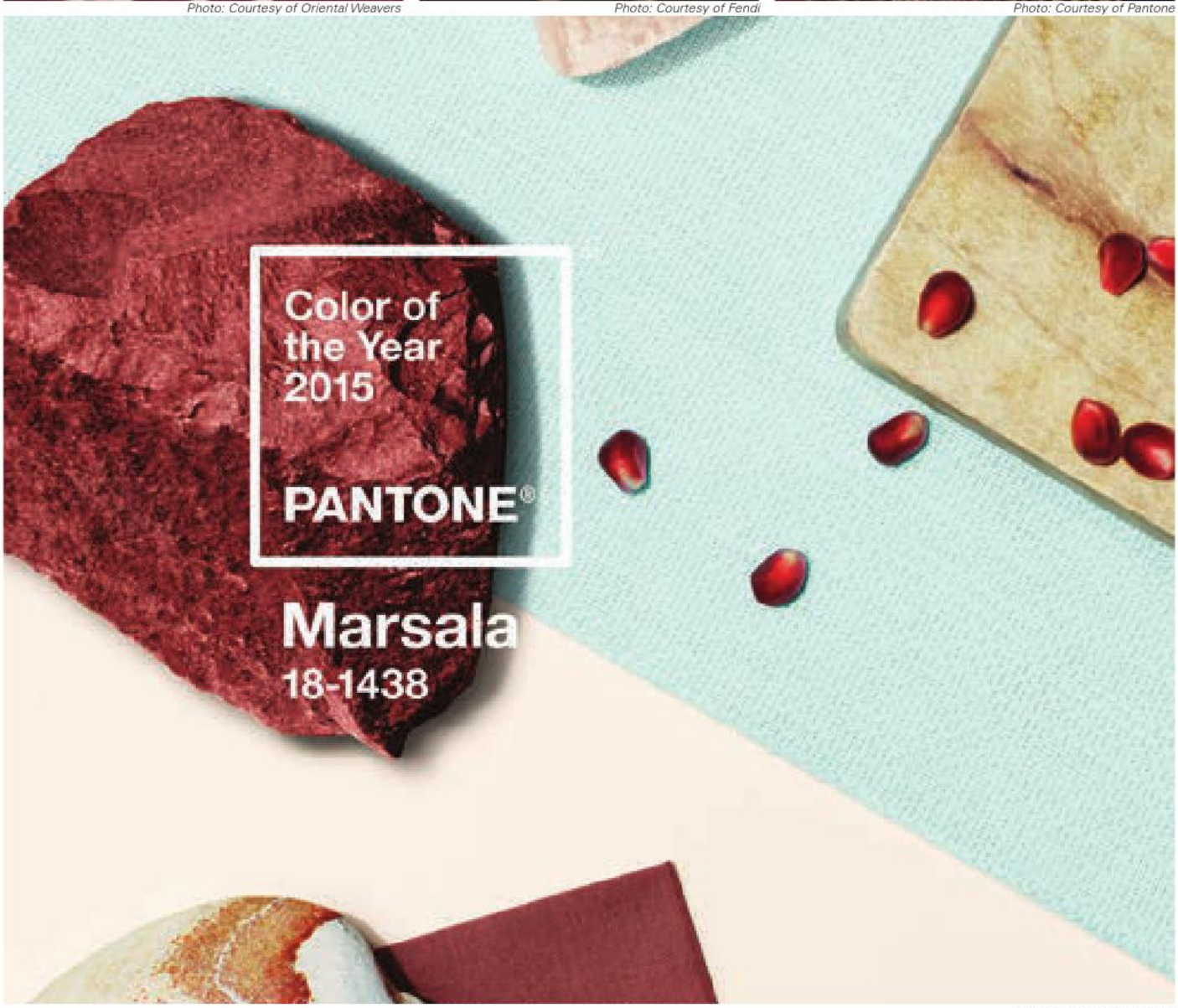


Photo: Courtesy of Pantone



Photo: Courtesy of Pantone



Photo: Courtesy of Pottery Barn

Year, Pantone also releases a selection that is seen as go to choices for successful and complementary colour applications. This year's grouping is made up of "cooler, softer choices and subtle warm tones" that suggest an "en plein air" theme. That's French for "in the open air" and you'll find light and yummy samples of Lucite Green, Toasted Almond, Strawberry Ice, Tangerine, Custard and Lavender Herb, just to name a few.

The Color Institute calls this collection "an eclectic, ethereal mix of understated brights, pale pastels and nature-like neutrals" that "take centre stage as designers draw from daydreams of simpler times. Remembrances of retro delights, folkloric and floral art and the magical worlds of tropical landscapes restore a sense of well-being as we head into warmer months."

Colour Not Just a Pretty Face

The Colour of the Year selection requires careful consideration and, to arrive at the selection, Pantone combs the world looking for colour ➤

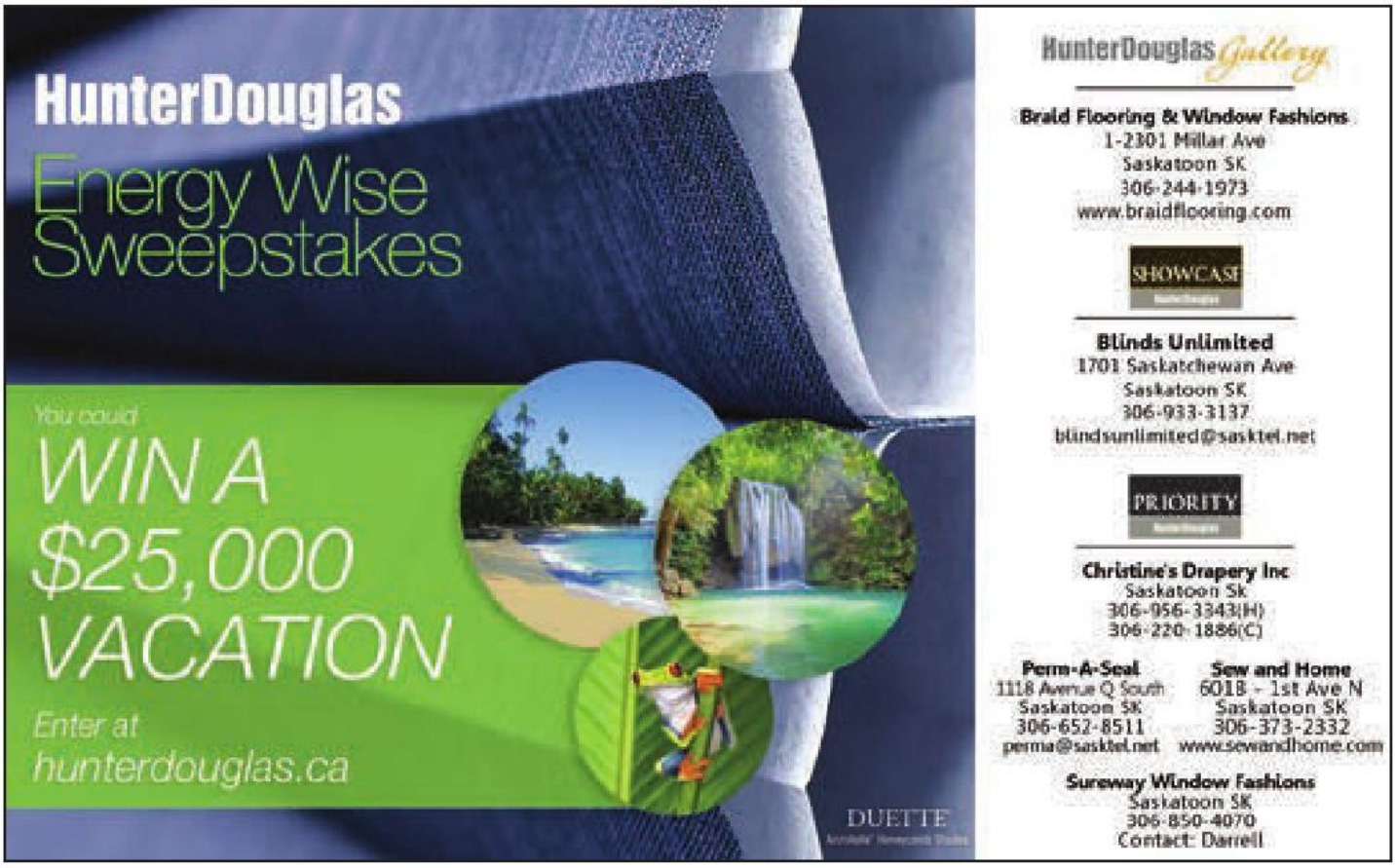




Photo: Courtesy of Pantone



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Photo: Courtesy of Pantone

influences. This can include the fashion and entertainment industries—including films that are in production, the world of art, popular travel destinations and other socio-economic conditions. Influences may also stem from technology, the availability of new textures and effects that impact colour and even upcoming sports events that capture worldwide attention.

For 15 years, Pantone's Colour of the Year has influenced product development and purchasing decisions in multiple industries, including fashion, home and industrial design, product packaging, graphic design and even selections for the garden.

Check www.Pantone.com for the specific Pantone formulas and a downloadable Fashion Colors Spring 2015 report. For more about Leatrice Eiseman: www.colorexpert.com.

Karin Melberg Schwier



DRINKLE NO. 3

The Real Estate Gamble of 1913



The Drinkle No. 3 today.

JEFF O'BRIEN

Photo: Courtesy Dave Deny

The Drinkle No. 3 at 115 3rd Avenue South is one of the oldest apartment buildings in Saskatoon. But it didn't start out that way. A child of the great real estate boom that swept the city in the years from 1909-1913, Drinkle No. 3 began life as yet another boom-era downtown office building. But the Great Bust that followed the boom made the owners re-think their plans.

There were once three Drinkle buildings downtown, all built by real estate mogul John Clarence Drinkle. He was new to Saskatoon in 1903 when he and another fellow scraped together $500 and opened a real estate office, buying up tracts of farmland, subdividing them and peddling them to prospective buyers south of the border. The scheme worked and Drinkle made a pot of money. Subsequently, he formed the Saskatoon Real Estate (Drinkle) Corporation to develop local business property, soon becoming one of the youngest and richest of the city's early real estate men. His first building, the aptly named Drinkle No. 1, was the first in Saskatoon to have an elevator. Drinkle was one of the first here to own a car (some say the first), and for a time he operated Saskatoon's first steam laundry and first automatic dialing telephone service.

In 1913, Saskatoon's ➤



Drawing of the original design of the Drinkle No. 3. After this design they decided to add four additional floors, but quit at the current height due to the bust.

Photo: Courtesy Dave Deny



John C. Drinkle in 1913.

Photo: Saskatoon Public Library, Local History Room – PH-92-14-4



Third Avenue looking south, Drinkle No. 3 on the right, in 1950.

Photo: Saskatoon Public Library, Local History Room – B-4047

DRINKLE Nº 3 1913 BUILDING

wild real estate boom began to unravel. Drinkle gambled that he could ride it out, and began work on two new buildings: Drinkle No. 2 and No. 3, which was planned for five storeys, changed to ten and then, as the money started to run out, hastily capped off at five. Saskatoon's economic slide continued. In August of 1914, war broke out. By 1915, the city was in full recession, and by 1917, Drinkle was broke and his buildings were still unfinished.

Drinkle wasn't the only one with problems. Built to service a demand that simply wasn't there anymore, Saskatoon's new business blocks suddenly found themselves





Drinkle No. 3 in the spring of 1935.

Photo: Saskatoon Public Library, Local History Room – A-219

without tenants. The solution: rent the offices out as apartments. Special permission was required for this, as many of the buildings did not have adequate plumbing for residential use. The necessary exemptions were granted against the strident opposition of Alderman J. MacGillivray Young, a physician, who objected to the idea of a half-dozen families sharing a single bathtub and toilet. ➤

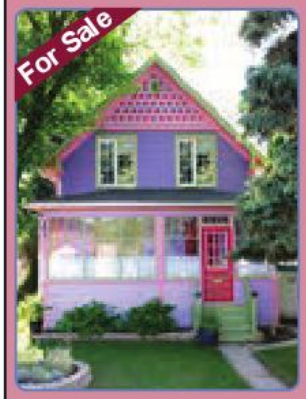




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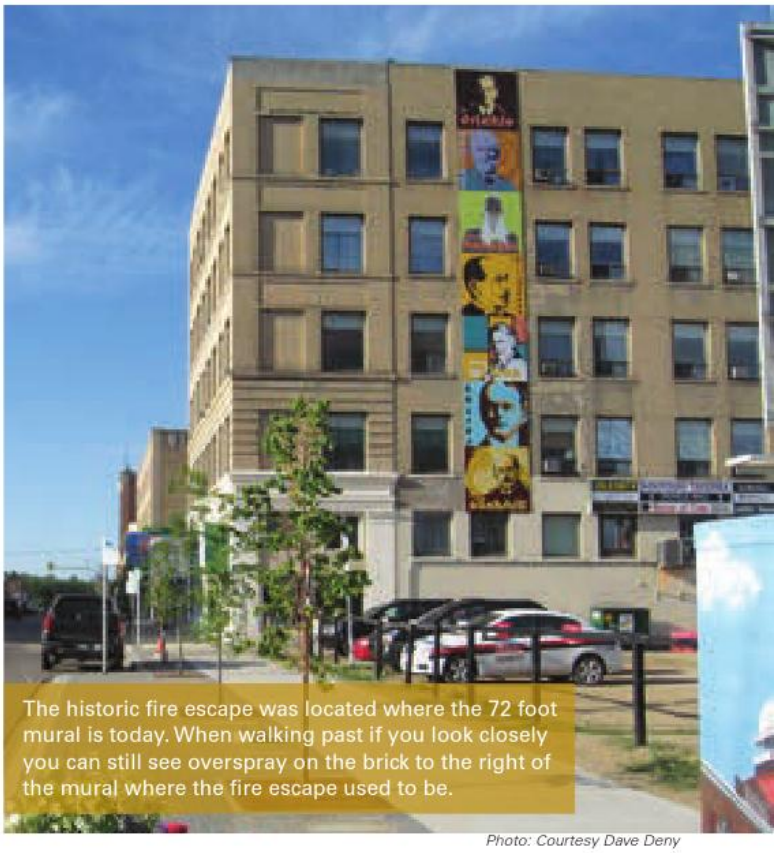
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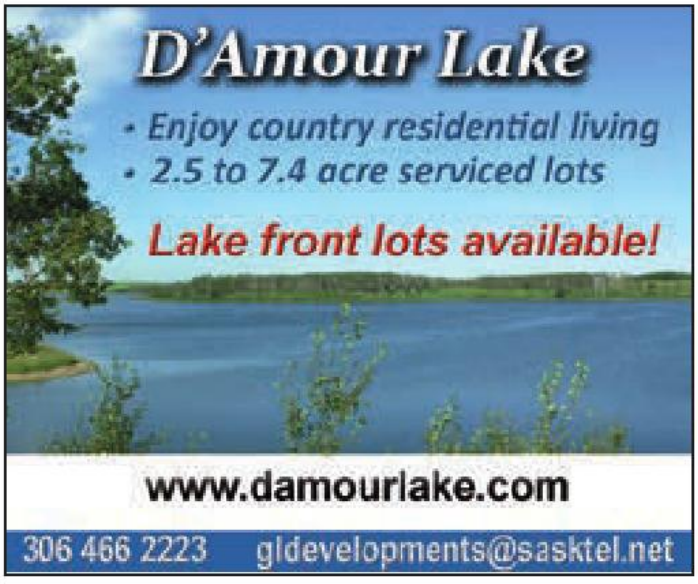
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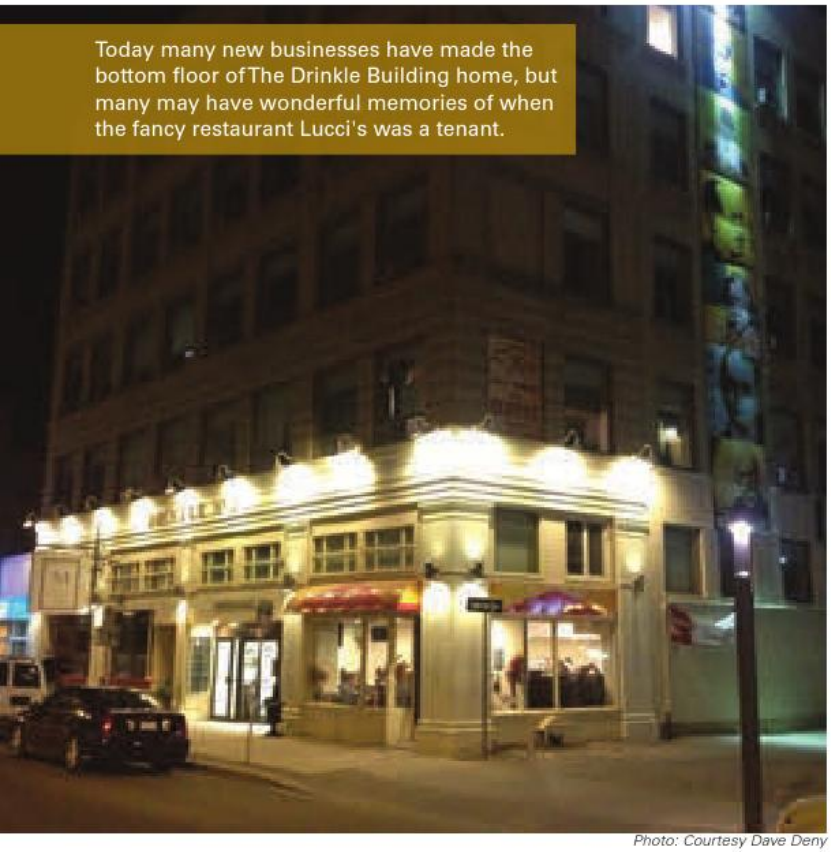


The historic fire escape was located where the 72 foot mural is today. When walking past if you look closely you can still see overspray on the brick to the right of the mural where the fire escape used to be.

Photo: Courtesy Dave Deny

The Drinkle was a cut above this. In 1917, work began to convert it into two- and three-room apartments, and plumbing was installed that was declared adequate for a building of its size. A miscommunication during the renovations meant that a second fire escape had to be installed on the north wall of the building. But the rooms had already been finished by then, so the only way to get to it on each floor was through someone's apartment. In 1923, the City Engineer directed that a red light with the words "Fire Escape" be put outside the door to the appropriate suites, adding "it would





Today many new businesses have made the bottom floor of The Drinkle Building home, but many may have wonderful memories of when the fancy restaurant Lucci's was a tenant.

Photo: Courtesy Dave Deny



be a good precaution to have a hammer or axe placed in a glass case outside the door" in case no one was home.

A curious aspect of the Drinkle No. 3 over the years was the number of women living there. By 1940, half the tenants were women, and by 1957, it was nearly seventy-five percent female. Today this trend lives on with 58% of the tenants being women.

The building has undergone many changes, inside and out. On the main floor, businesses have come and gone, including a bank, a variety of fancy restaurants and other street-level retail. The lower level is a cozy shopping mall with many store tenants, decorated with photos and displays that make it a veritable museum of Saskatoon's early boom years. Outside, a 72-foot-long mural of Saskatoon's founders, painted by artist Henry VanSeters, has been installed on the north wall. Office space and tastefully modern apartments fill the upper floors, where in some the original 13-foot-high ceilings, reduced to eight feet by panelling installed in the 1980s, are once again being restored to their original glory.

Jeff O'Brien



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JULIE BARNES

GROWING FORWARD

A Plan for Half a Million

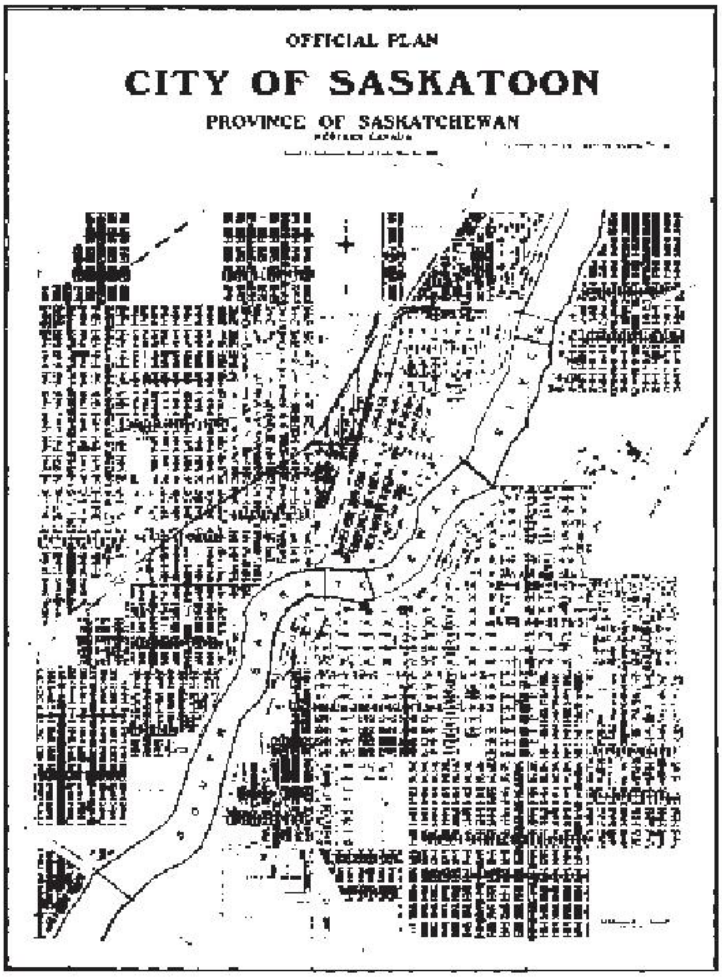
"We used to brag about how easy it was to get around in Saskatoon. It was a ten minute drive almost anywhere," says Alan Wallace, Director of Planning and Development with the City of Saskatoon.

"Certainly there are still places you can go quickly. With the new South Bridge, it's amazing how quickly you can still get around certain areas. But that's not going to last forever."

With an expected population of 500,000 by 2045, Alan says it's time to rethink how we move around our city, how we develop new neighbourhoods and how we invest in our existing neighbourhoods. That's where Saskatoon's *Growing Forward* plan comes in.

Improving Choices for Moving Around

"We're faced with a situation where the number of cars is going to increase, ➤









Photos: City of Saskatoon

but we don't have any more capacity to increase our existing roadways," says Alan, who notes many roads such as 8th Street can't be widened. "That means our commute times are increasing to a point where we have to start thinking about alternatives for moving around."

Compared with other Canadian cities, Saskatoon's transit ridership of four to five per cent is quite low. The City's goal is to increase ridership to eight per cent. We're highly dependent on our cars and each vehicle transports an average of just 1.1 people. "We don't find two or more people in a car and that's a problem. Space becomes an issue," says Alan.

Making public transit more attractive will require a combination of convenience and comfort. One approach the City proposes to increase ridership is bus rapid transit (BRT). BRT involves adding dedicated bus lanes that help reduce travel times and allow buses to bypass congestion. Higher frequency service, more direct routes and improved reliability are all part of a long-range transit plan.

"We think there's a number of people who are driving because there isn't a viable alternative being provided," says Alan. "If you take the cars that are on College Drive in the morning, a certain percentage of those drivers would take a bus if it was more convenient."

The comfort factor is also key and Alan hopes that will help remove some of the stigma we see today. "What if we had amenities inside the bus, such as monitors and work surfaces? What if we had shelters that were more like stations that would provide an opportunity to get a cup of coffee or even groceries nearby?" Alan cites existing transit stops that are nothing more than a pole sticking out of the ground, adding, "Even if you're not at a station, when you're at a stop it should still be comfortable. You should be protected from the elements and it should feel like a more positive experience than it does now."

While the car will likely be king for the foreseeable future, the City's goal is to offer more choice when it comes to getting around, whether that be by public transit, car, bike or your own two feet.



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Photo: City of Saskatoon

All Modes Considered

Today, Saskatoon's transportation and neighbourhood planning departments consider all modes of moving around, including biking and walking. Alan says that the old process was to look after the car and traffic first and then ask, "How does everything else fit?" The new standard for arterial roadways is to include sidewalks that are separated from the road by a strip of landscaping. Once completed, new streets such as Fedoruk Drive in Silverspring will have separated bike and pedestrian lanes, both flanked with landscaping, creating a buffer from the road and a more pleasant aesthetic.

New Neighbourhood Development

"It wasn't that long ago we were building neighbourhoods that had a single purpose. They were really residential with just parks and schools," says Alan. Now there's a shift towards mixed-use neighbourhoods that offer retail and employment opportunities, a wide range of housing options and abundant park and recreational space. With everything from single-family dwellings, to town homes and apartment-style housing, the City aims to create neighbourhoods that are accessible to people at every life stage, with attainable options for a variety of income levels.

"The neighbourhoods ➤





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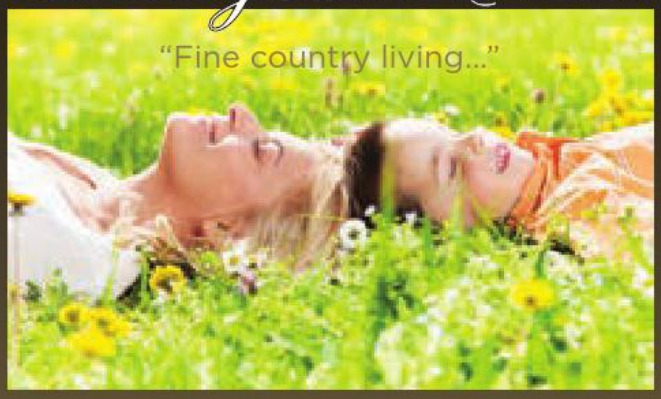
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THE HIGHLIGHTS - WHAT'S IN IT FOR US

- Transportation should be easier for all forms of transit (cars, buses, bikes, etc) preparing the city for growth transitions
- Neighbourhoods will have a greater range of housing choices (from entry level all the way to retirement options)
- Increased establishment of live-work developments will create community within neighbourhoods where you could potentially live, work and shop all within walking distance

themselves become almost miniature cities," says Alan. He notes that the next neighbourhood under development, Brighton, will include a main street similar to Broadway Avenue. Such mixed-use areas allow residents access to amenities without necessarily having to leave the neighbourhood. Designed with walkability in mind, residents may choose to leave the car at home as they run their daily errands. As the first neighbourhood to be developed in the Holmwood Suburban Development Area, Brighton will also include employment opportunities. A BRT line will run right into the neighbourhood, providing a convenient transit link to the rest of the city.

Investing in Core Neighbourhoods

Changes to existing neighbourhoods are also on the radar, and keeping everyone happy has been a challenge. Infill guidelines are in the works with Council as the City works to balance the interests of builders, residents and other stakeholders. The City likes to see investment in older neighbourhoods as it's less costly to add density where services already exist.

"Every time somebody builds something new, they're putting money into that neighbourhood and they tend to be increasing the assessed value within that neighbourhood. So that's a positive thing," says Alan. However, as much as the City wants to accommodate and encourage infill, they also want to keep the neighbours happy by creating regulations regarding the size of new housing to ensure harmonization with the streetscape.

A rare opportunity to buy a new home in central Saskatoon will soon come to fruition when the University of Saskatchewan releases 1,100 acres of nearby land for development. "It's great to use land that already exists inside the city," says Alan. "We don't have to annex more land so it's a sustainable option."

A Modern, Progressive Saskatoon

Growing Forward planning is halfway through the formation process. At the end of 2015 the plan is expected to be completed, in the first quarter of 2016 the plan will be presented to council, and if recommendations are accepted we will begin to see some of these evolutions take place in Saskatoon starting in 2017.

In addition to the *Growing Forward* initiative, there are other ongoing civic initiatives which are looking at positively impacting Saskatoon's growth, such as the *North Commuter Parkway Project, North Downtown Master Plan, City Centre Plan, Neighbourhood Level Infill Design Guidelines* and *Affordable Housing Programs*. All of these plans are intended to fit together to create a cohesive Saskatoon.

For Alan, the excitement around *Growing Forward* is that the plan for a modern, progressive city is beginning to take shape. "Saskatoon will be a pleasant surprise in that the range of choices are there for new and existing residents who maybe have chosen a different way to live, a different way to move around."

Julie Barnes



OUTDOOR DESIGN

All Hands On Deck



KARIN MELBERG SCHWIER HEATHER FRITZ

Whether it's a compact surface just right for a barbeque and bistro table for two or a sprawling, multi-level construction that spills over half the back yard, the quintessential deck has evolved into an outdoor living space that offers privacy, purpose and pleasure. No matter what type of deck you build, there are a few things to consider at the pencil on paper stage.

Size and Space Matter

"Everything's bigger!" says

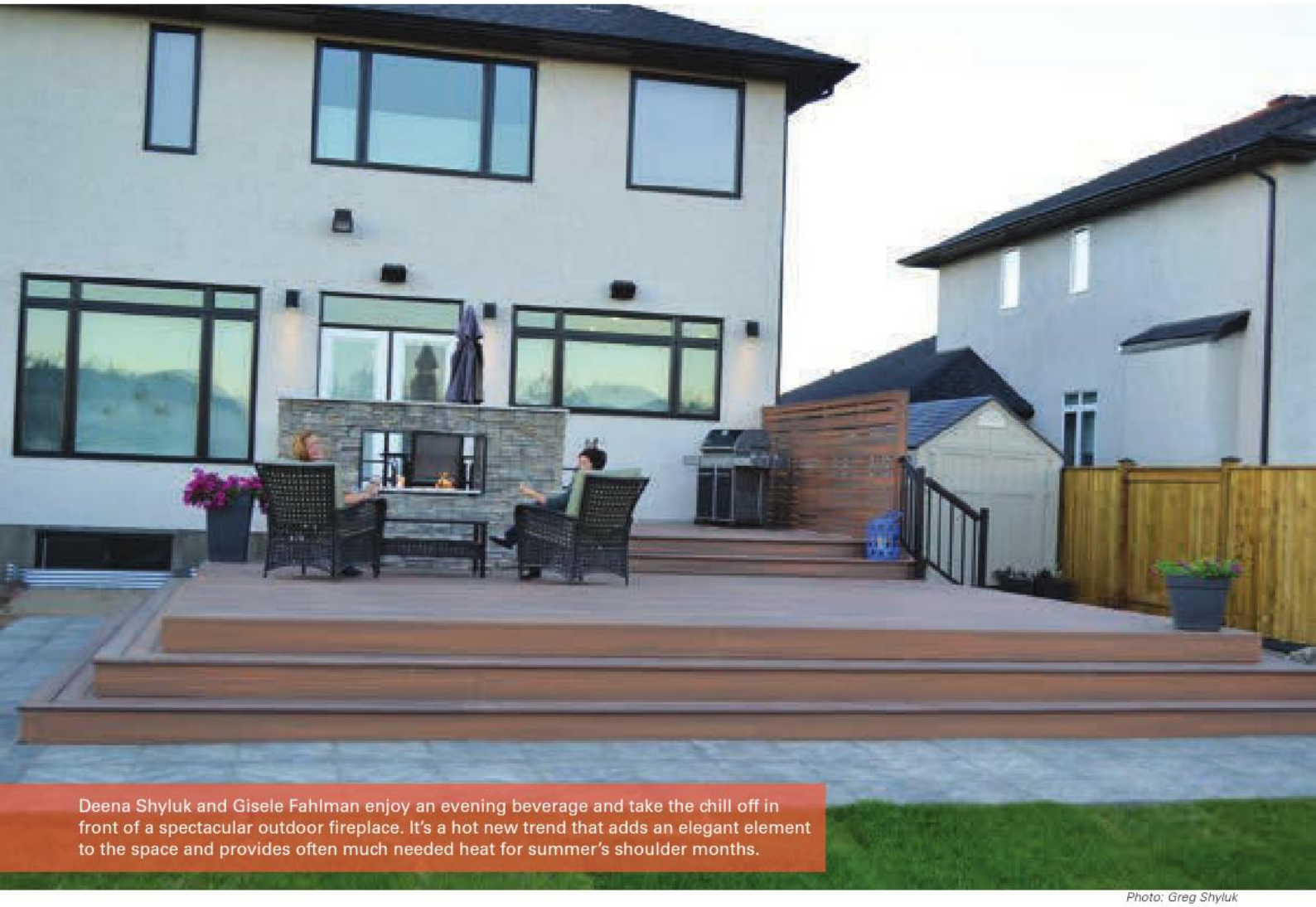




Designers recommend thoughtful planning to be sure to take full advantage of space, and erring on a larger size is better. But think about goals and purpose for your outdoor space.

Rob Keep, owner of Dexperts and Beachcomber HotTubs in Saskatoon. Gone are the days of the lowly little square, just big enough for a barbeque and a chair to sit on while you tend the hamburgers. "Decks have become extensions of the home, and now incorporate patio areas, hot tubs, pillars, various levels for seating, gazebos and outdoor TVs."

Rob says elaborate outdoor kitchens are becoming popular, complete with grills, smokers and pizza ovens. ➤



Deena Shyluk and Gisele Fahlman enjoy an evening beverage and take the chill off in front of a spectacular outdoor fireplace. It's a hot new trend that adds an elegant element to the space and provides often much needed heat for summer's shoulder months.

Photo: Greg Shyluk

When adding modern bells and whistles like a hot tub, he says it's important to factor in the weight you need to support and access to the mechanical. Thinking it through before you start heads off potential problems.

"What are your goals?" Rob asks. "Are you going to spend every evening there in the summer, with enough room for family and friends? Or is this just something you want up off the ground so you don't have to shovel to get to the barbeque? A lot of homes now are built with the ledger board already on the back so often people start with that. If you're starting with a bare lot, there are a lot of things you can do. If you've already got a developed yard, there might be considerations like trees, a garage." If your home is a bi-level or a walkout, your deck will be quite high so you'll need to think about railings, steps and weatherproofing to protect the area below.

Landscape designer ➤



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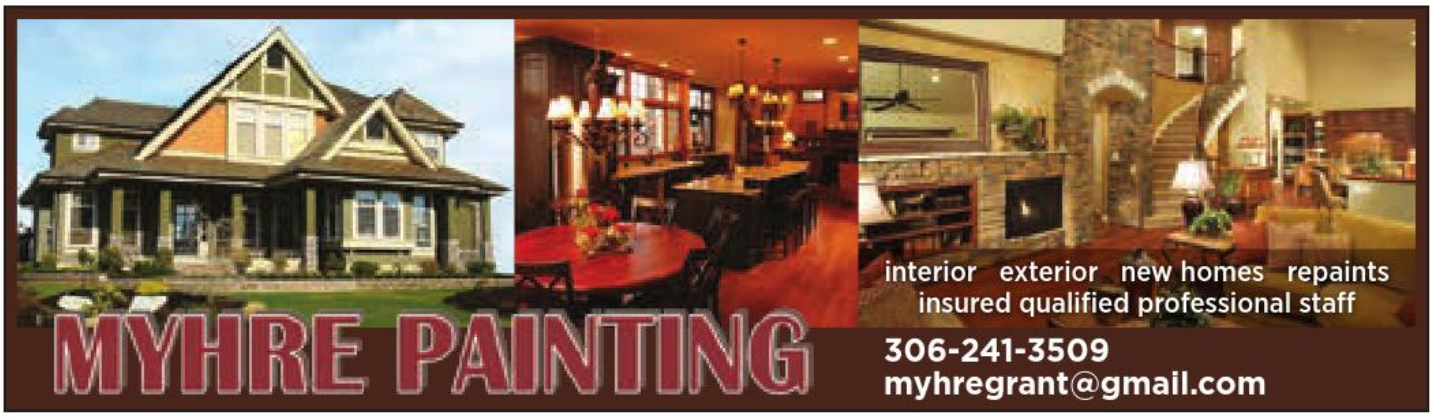


Rob and Karen Keep, son Tommy and even Carlos the cat enjoy their outdoor space at home on the acreage.

Denise Balcaen, owner of Gardens Four Seasons, advises clients to "err on the side of bigger." Her idea of a minimum size is 15 X 15, 300 square feet. That allows for a table and chairs for four. She's done smaller, but adding a couple more feet at the building stage is a great idea unless you have serious space restrictions. A medium size of 20 X 20, 400 to 500 square feet, allows for a table and chairs for six. A large size could include a smaller 12 X 12 'landing pad' just off the house, and then more levels with zones for dining, lounging and play. No matter what size, she says, plan for purpose, traffic flow, seating arrangements, steps and easy transition in and out of the house, and to other spaces in the yard.

"You can have one area for dining with your table and chairs. Then have an adjoining space where you incorporate outdoor chaise lounges and sofa sets for seating. This lounge area is really popular right now and is often seen at deluxe restaurants," says Denise. "You have that lounge feel, maybe even with a firepit or firetable in the middle."

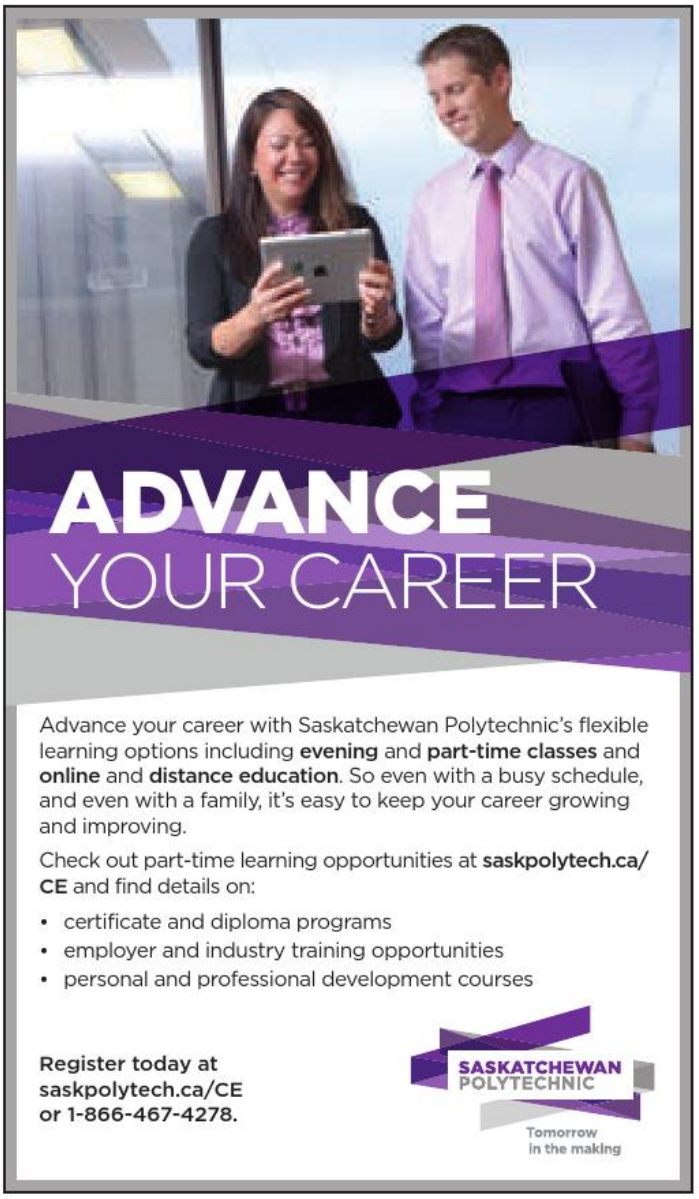
Make steps wider than the standard. "If you have stairs going down to the ground, the standard is four feet wide.





The backyard barbeque has morphed into a full-on outdoor kitchen.

I usually recommend six to eight," she says. "Your stairs become impromptu seating, especially great for kids. The larger the width, the more comfortable it looks and has more ease of use. A big trend now, too, is to add a small garden statue, potted plant or decorative rocks in that ➤









Photos: Denise Balcaen



Wider steps allow for easier winter clearing, can serve as impromptu seating, and can accommodate small statuary or plants.

extra space. And the wider stair is much easier to shovel off in the winter." If your deck will be multi-level, Denise also recommends that the lower elevation is at least two-thirds larger than the upper. "It's like the stone thrown into a pool and it ripples out," she says. "It just is more pleasing proportionally if the lower level is larger."

Materials Matter

While Dexperts specializes in vinyl decking and aluminum railings, Rob explains the pros and cons of various materials as people research options. People often assume that treated wood is not only the cheapest, but also the best choice.

"They think because the wood is treated, they never have to touch it again which just isn't true," Rob says. "After a year, you have to stain or seal. Wood is a living thing, it's got moisture in it and it deteriorates. We find a lot of people get sick of having to stain it every year, and it starts getting splinters, boards warp. We put vinyl on top of a lot of existing decks after about the three to five year mark." Treated wood definitely is the most inexpensive option. Composite boards are at the top of the price range and while the boards are weatherproof, the framing underneath is not. Vinyl is the maintenance-free option. Deck board patterns have evolved and Rob says patterns that mimic hardwood are very popular.

Flour Power

Before construction, "live in the space for awhile," Denise suggests. Draw the proposed deck to scale and then use this trick to get a good feel for your project.

"Get a little bag of flour, go out on a calm day and mark things off. If you make a mistake, scuff it up. Walk around. Think about traffic flow. Where's the sweet spot where you'd like to have your coffee in the morning or a glass of wine in the evening? Where's the table, where's the barbeque? Alternatively, in

the winter when you've got a nice fresh snowfall, go out and tramp it out." Think about sun exposure and the kind of access you need for things like the AC, garden shed and irrigation manifold.

Rob agrees that marking off the space is helpful and allows you to envision what will go where. When he built his own impressive outdoor kitchen and deck area on his acreage, he used the same method. It helped him rethink. "When I marked out the space and got some estimates on materials like the patio stones, I cut it back by about half!" He laughs. "But think again about what you're going to use the space for. If you've got six kids, lots of siblings with families and a bunch of friends, you're going to want a comfortable area everyone can enjoy. I can easily get about 40 people in our outdoor living space."

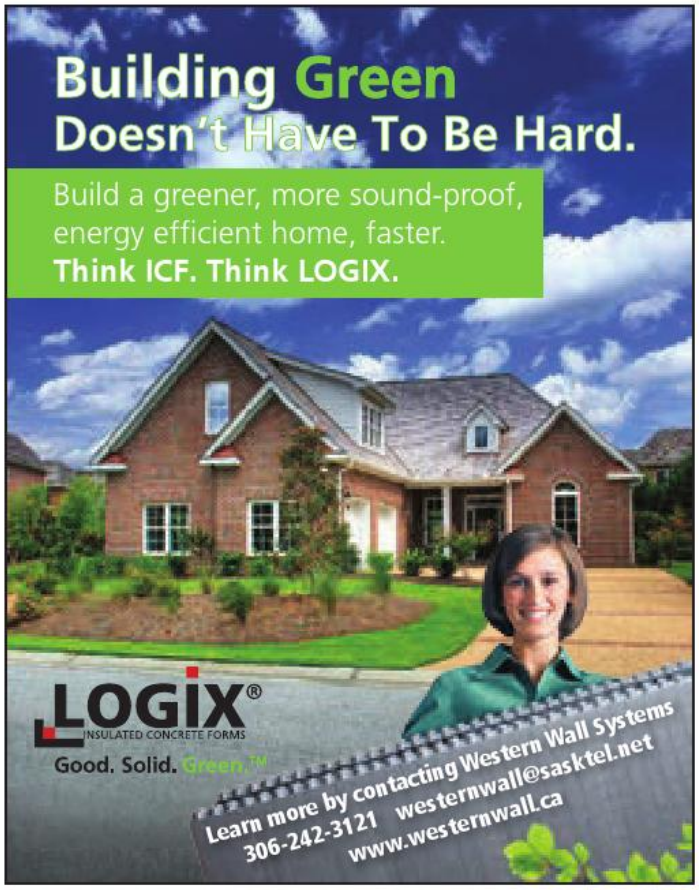
Permits and Safety Concerns

"As professionals, we build to code and we always advise the homeowner to get a permit," says Rob. "The inspector signs off and you're good to go. There is a fee and sometimes the build has to wait until the inspector can get to you, but it's required."

A building permit is required for decks more than eight inches above grade. *A Guide to Residential Decks and Patios: Regulations and Permit Information* is available from the City Community Services Department and on line. You can call Building Standards at 306-975-2645. If a deck is higher than two feet, a railing is required. Even if it's lower, "it's sometimes prudent to have a railing depending on your situation," Denise says.

Sanctuary Space

Decks have really ➤









Photos: Denise Balcaen

evolved to become a sanctuary and because most are in the backyard, they are much more of a private space. From simple to elaborate, today's deck is considered an extension of the home rather than just a utilitarian add-on. Adding privacy panels or an arbour with a screen, planting narrow upright trees, or growing vines or grapes on a pergola all make it a much more inviting space.

"In the summer, we're barely in the house," says Rob. "We do all our cooking out there. We entertain. We've got a sound system and the hot tub. Beachcomber sells the outdoor TVs that are designed for summer heat up to +50 and winter watching down to -35C. It's tempting to take home all of this stuff home, but then I'd have to go back to my bigger plan!"

Karin Melberg Schwier

Kensington

Modern living, traditional style

Much more than a collection of homes, Saskatoon's newest neighbourhood will be a vibrant community to call home. With an inviting village square, picturesque ponds, parks and space for local shops, this is a neighbourhood where people can live, play and work. Designed to connect seamlessly to nearby communities, this urban village will enrich the lives of its new residents.

Kensington is located in the Northwest within the Blairmore sector. You'll always be able to call Kensington home, even when your housing requirements change. There will be apartment-style condominiums, townhouses, single-family homes on cul-de-sacs or traditional lots with rear lanes, and upper-story apartments located above a shop or office in the Village Square.







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NEXT LOT DRAW FALL, 2015

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A refurbished dresser at Green Ark Collected Home.

AVIVA ZACK

FURNITURE FINDS

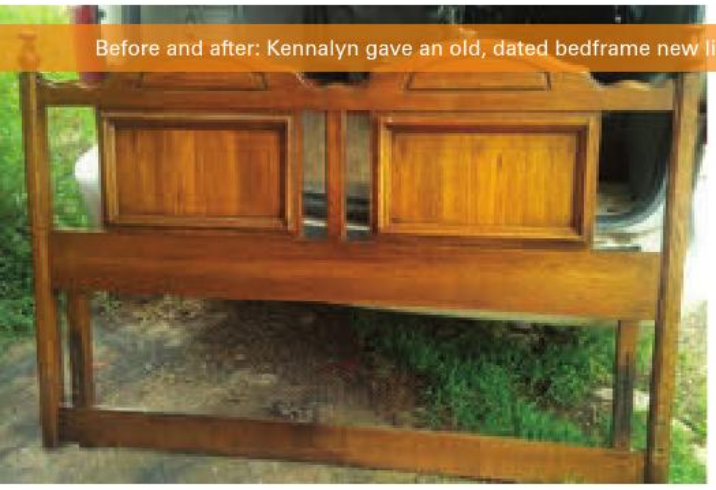
The Thrill of the Hunt

For those who do it, it's a bit of an adrenaline rush—finding an old piece of furniture and being able to see its potential. But how do you know if a furniture find is worth the blood, sweat, tears...and money necessary to give it new life?

Local hobbyist Kennalyn O'Brien, who has been drawn to refinishing furniture since she was six years old roaming the aisles of her grandmother's fabric store, is always on the hunt for visually interesting pieces. She has had many great furniture finds at Village Green Furniture and Appliances, as well as success on Kijiji and in the summer, at garage sales.

"Often people undervalue their old furniture," says Kennalyn. This allows her an opportunity to snap up quality finds for low cost. She looks for pieces that evoke emotion. "You need to have an eye, a vision for the potential of a piece," she says.

Allie Perrin, owner of Green Ark Collected Home who describes herself as "rescuer of unloved pieces and materials," has long had an eye for spotting quality finds. She is often shocked by what people are willing to throw out. Her furniture finds come from all over as well, including the Habitat for Humanity ReStore and auctions. "The search is definitely part of the fun," she adds.





Before and after: Kennalyn gave an old, dated bedframe new life.



Allie found this solid mahogany cupboard at an auction. The piece, likely from the early 1900's, was in rough shape before she stripped and oiled it.

Those searching for antique or vintage furniture not in need of fixing up should look to antique stores. Furniture is usually in good original condition or has already been properly refinished. There is fortunately a lot of information on the Internet to help identify designers, manufacturers and estimate the value of furniture before you invest in a more costly piece.

When searching for quality furniture to DIY, it need not cost much. Do look for something with a solid weight. Furniture with dovetail joints is also a good sign. A piece with good bones will be easier to bring back to life when you refinish, repair or repurpose.

Arts and Crafts or Mission furniture from the early 20th century has clean, simple lines and is often well constructed of oak. Many pieces from the Art Deco era of 1920s and '30s are made of maple or fir, although sometimes you can find a great mahogany or walnut piece. In mid-century modern (MCM), from the 1950s to 1980s, teak was most often used, but rosewood, walnut and beech were popular as well.

Terry Hogan, who has been repairing and refinishing furniture for more than four decades, has long loved ➤

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Allie's favourite pieces of furniture to refurbish are dressers, since they allow her to be creative with stains.

TIPS & TRICKS FOR THE NOVICE

- Always keep your eyes open for good furniture finds: garage sales, Kijiji, local thrift stores, auctions, estate sales, even friends' homes
- Look to the Internet for inspiration on sites like Pinterest, and for step by step instructions to help you get started
- Look for new ways to use old items: leather pants can be recycled into a seat cushion, a fur coat can become a pillow cover
- Have basic supplies on hand: staple gun, nail puller, sandpaper, furniture oil, glue
- Be patient, there will be some trial and error involved

period pieces. He is currently focused on MCM teak furniture. "Teak was always simply finished using oils to bring out the natural grain of the wood and for protection, so refinishing doesn't involve using harsh chemical strippers to remove old oil, dirt and water marks," says Terry. "Oak, quarter cut oak, elm and walnut used in furniture from the early half of the 20th century was finished using shellac, which to remove requires the use of chemical strippers."

If the furniture has a flat surface, sanding is an option.

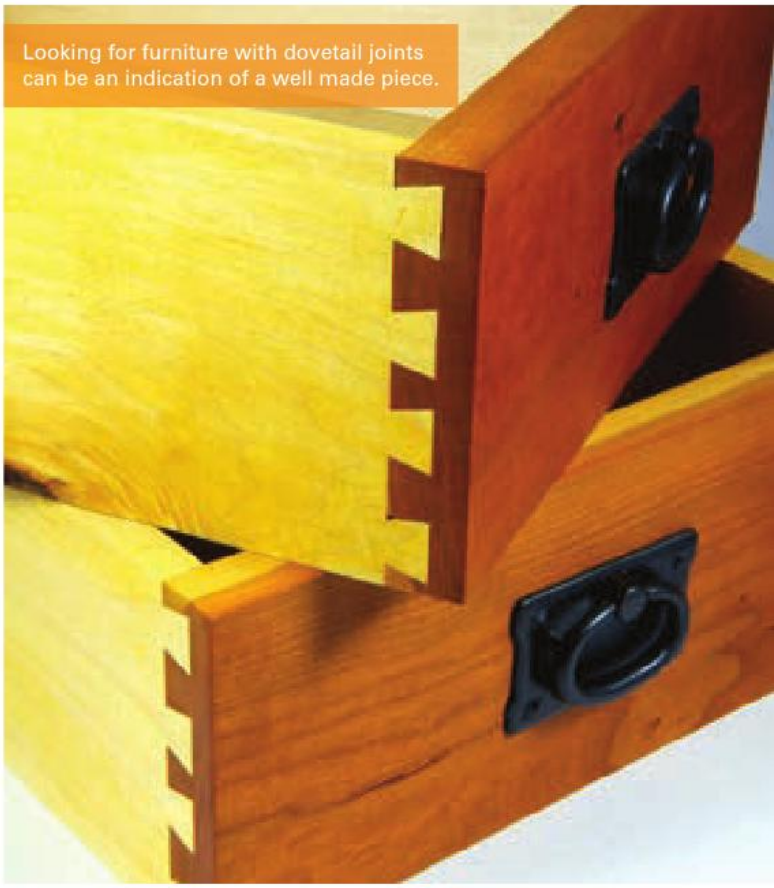


However, ornate pieces with many corners and crevices, and those with a lacquered finish or furniture with many coats of paint, are probably not good pieces for a novice who wants to try their hand at refinishing. These pieces tend to take a lot more time, cost and experience. Solid woods are much easier to work with than veneers, which also take a higher level of skill.

Allie's advice for those who want to learn how to refinish furniture is to use an orbital or hand sander rather than chemical strippers, which are bad for both you and the environment. "Using sandpaper the old fashioned way tends to get the greatest results," she says.

Getting started refinishing a piece of furniture can feel daunting, but once begun, it can be hard to stop. Snagging a great furniture find, coupled with the gratification from taking something old and making it new again, draws hobbyists and professionals back to the process over and over again. Kennalyn's 100-year old home is evidence of this. Filled with an eclectic and colourful mix of refinished furniture, she had to start selling her pieces when she ran out of living space. Parting with some has been hard since passion is poured into each. But knowing that other Saskatoon homes are filled with her revived furniture has made it well worth it.

Aviva Zack



Looking for furniture with dovetail joints can be an indication of a well made piece.





CRAIG SILLIPHANT

HOME FOOD:
Appetizers From Farm to Plate

It's easy to lump the idea of 'local food' in with marketing buzzwords like 'organic' and 'fresh.' Words that have very little real meaning in relation to most products you'll find at the grocery store or in restaurants. For an agricultural province, we could probably stand to take more chemically processed foods out of our families' diets. 'Local food' isn't just a buzz phrase; going 'from farm to plate' has a wealth of benefits, from food safety and freshness to environmental concerns. After all, trucking in food that was picked a week ago in California has an impact on the freshness and flavour by the time it gets to your table, not to mention the fact that it lays down a nasty carbon footprint.

I decided to put my money where my mouth is and challenge myself to see if I could host an appetizer party with some good friends using only local food. Considering that this story was written in the month of January and the growing ground was covered in snow when I started, I knew there would be less to choose from than in warmer months. But I wanted to show myself that it's not too hard to create a whole meal using a lot of local fare.

The first thing I did was shoot a message to Melanie Boldt at Pine View Farms All Natural Meats. If you want a model for the reasons you should buy local, look no further than Pine View Farms. I don't want this to sound like an advertisement, because it's not, but Melanie and her husband Kevin are fourth generation farmers who



A delicious abundance of locally sourced ingredients is not only good for the appetite, but better for the planet.

produce all natural meats. Pine View pays a living wage to their employees and their food is made responsibly, free of any kind of growth promoting medications or hormones. Melanie and Kevin believe that you can produce food and make money while also being socially responsible and helping people be healthier.

Melanie was kind enough to bring me some amazing products, like their famous bacon, some lamb merguez sausages, spicy pepperoni and a specialty product they make: boiled, smoked eggs. The fact that Melanie brought it to me spoiled me; you can find their products in stores throughout the city. Even better, you can take a short drive to the farm store to take advantage of one of the major reasons for buying local. Go see for yourself how and where your food was produced and meet the people who made it.

On the morning of the party, my wife, son and I piled into the car and headed down to the Saskatoon Farmer's Market. While there are many great specialty stores in town that offer local goods, the Farmer's Market is one of the central hubs. I didn't have a plan going in. All I knew was that I could build something around the meat that Melanie provided. I wasn't sure if I'd be able to find enough to put together a menu. But my fears were unwarranted. We encountered a virtual cornucopia of amazing local fare.

My first stop was Herschel Hills, Saskatoon's artisan cheese house, whom I'd visited a few times before. I picked up some chili pepper gouda, a little wheel of camembert, which is a soft creamy ➤

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cheese made from cow's milk and Halloumi, a semi-hard brined cheese usually made from a mix of goat and sheep's milk, though in this case, it was made with cow's milk as well.

We perused the busy Farmer's Market, letting my 18-month-old son Luke walk around curiously in this family friendly environment. We occasionally snagged him by the back of his coat when he tried to wander behind counters or into other people. We happened upon a few other places like Mother Hubbard's Cupboard, where we bought a dozen homemade perogies. Now, this may be cheating slightly because I didn't have to make them myself, but they were crafted locally, with love, so I say they fit the bill.

At the Prairie Pantry, we picked up some Three Farmer's Camelina Oil, and a bag of their barbecue-flavoured Roasted Chick Peas.

Last but not least, we left the Farmer's Market and hit Christie's Il Secundo on Broadway for some fresh bread, including a baguette and their mind-melting red pepper focaccia. I was getting really excited, menu ideas swirling around in my head.

That afternoon, I planned a menu and around dinnertime I started prepping and cooking. When the sun went down, our friends showed up. One of them, in the spirit of things, even brought some locally brewed Nokomis Craft Ale. They sat around the table, laughing and talking, as I was putting the finishing touches on dishes.

One of the main dishes was perogies, first boiled, then crisped up with a bit of camelina oil in the frying pan with chunks of thick, amazing Pine View bacon, and onions to which I had also added bacon fat.

Perogies from the grocery store usually taste like doughy wallpaper paste, but they come alive when home made with real ingredients instead of chemicals that give them a longer shelf life. That's very often the case when eating local versus buying processed.

The other main dish was the Herschel Hills halloumi, brushed with camelina and gently pan-fried, making it soft on the inside and a bit browned on the outside. I placed that on a bed of arugula from Floating Gardens, another Farmer's Market find, which was tossed with a lemon and camelina oil vinaigrette. The lemon and the sour cream for the perogies were the only things that weren't local.

Next came the charcuterie plates. How I love thee, charcuterie. If you're not familiar











with it, it's basically a meat plate with other items like breads and cheeses. I fried and chopped up the duck sausage, which had distinct and aromatic African and Tunisian spices, as well as the cured spicy pepperoni. For the cheese portion, some chili pepper gouda and camembert. I also finished off the finger foods with the smoked eggs, which came boiled, brined, and smoked. My wife is not a fan of eggs, so I'm surprised she let me bring this curiosity into the house, but they had a delectable smoky flavour, and were quickly polished off by our guests. For some crunchiness, I also put out the Three Sister's roasted chickpeas.

It was an amazing night of food and friends, made even better through the knowledge that we were able to make a good menu filled with local foods, supporting local businesses, which meant our dollars stayed in this community. It's healthier for the mouths you have to feed, it's good for the economy and the community and it just plain tastes better.

Craig Silliphant

PEROGIES



Fry strips of bacon in a pan (save some bacon fat!).

Chop bacon into thick bits and set aside.

Caramelize onions in a separate pan, add bacon fat, set aside.

Boil perogies until they float.

Drain perogies, then add to a pan to crisp. When they're almost done, add the onions and bacon to heat them up.

Serve with sour cream.

HALLOUMI ON ARUGULA WITH LEMON VINAIGRETTE



Heat a pan to medium heat.

Brush the halloumi with some camelina oil.

Cook halloumi in pan, making sure not to burn the outsides. It will come to a nice, golden brown as the inside of the cheese heats up.

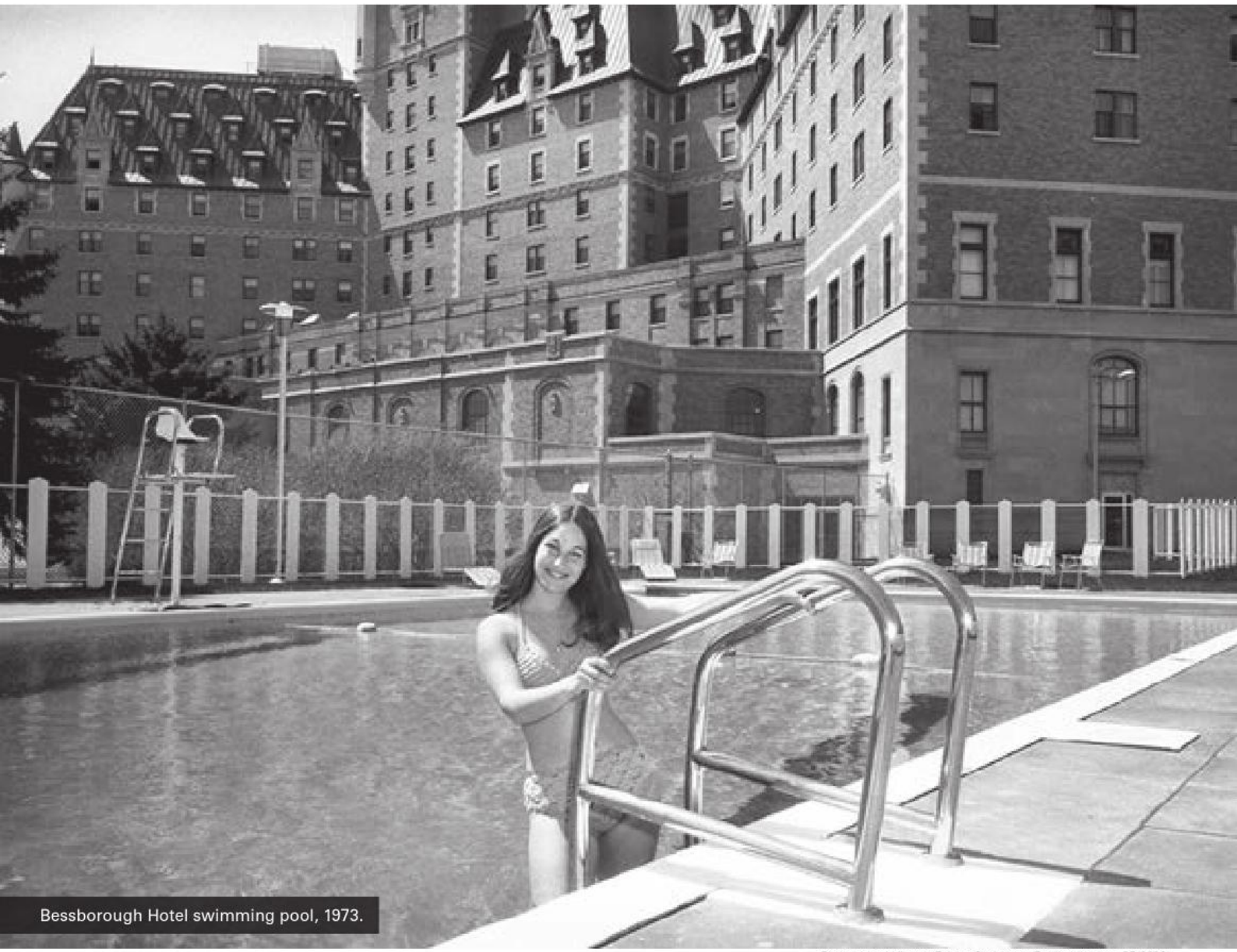
Separately to make the vinaigrette:
Freshly squeeze a lemon.
Mix 3 tablespoons of lemon with 3 tablespoons of camelina oil. Add salt to taste.

Dress the arugula with the vinaigrette. Place the halloumi on top of salad and enjoy!

HOMEtown Reflections

JEFF O'BRIEN

DIVING INTO SASKATOON'S POOLS



Bessborough Hotel swimming pool, 1973.

Photo: Local History Room, Saskatoon Public Library – CP-6629

Few things will cool you off faster on a sweltering summer afternoon than a plunge into an outdoor swimming pool. Even here in Saskatoon, famed for its 10 months of winter and two months of lousy skiing, swimming pools are a common sight in suburban backyards. In fact, the idea of artificial swimming baths is almost as old as civilization itself.



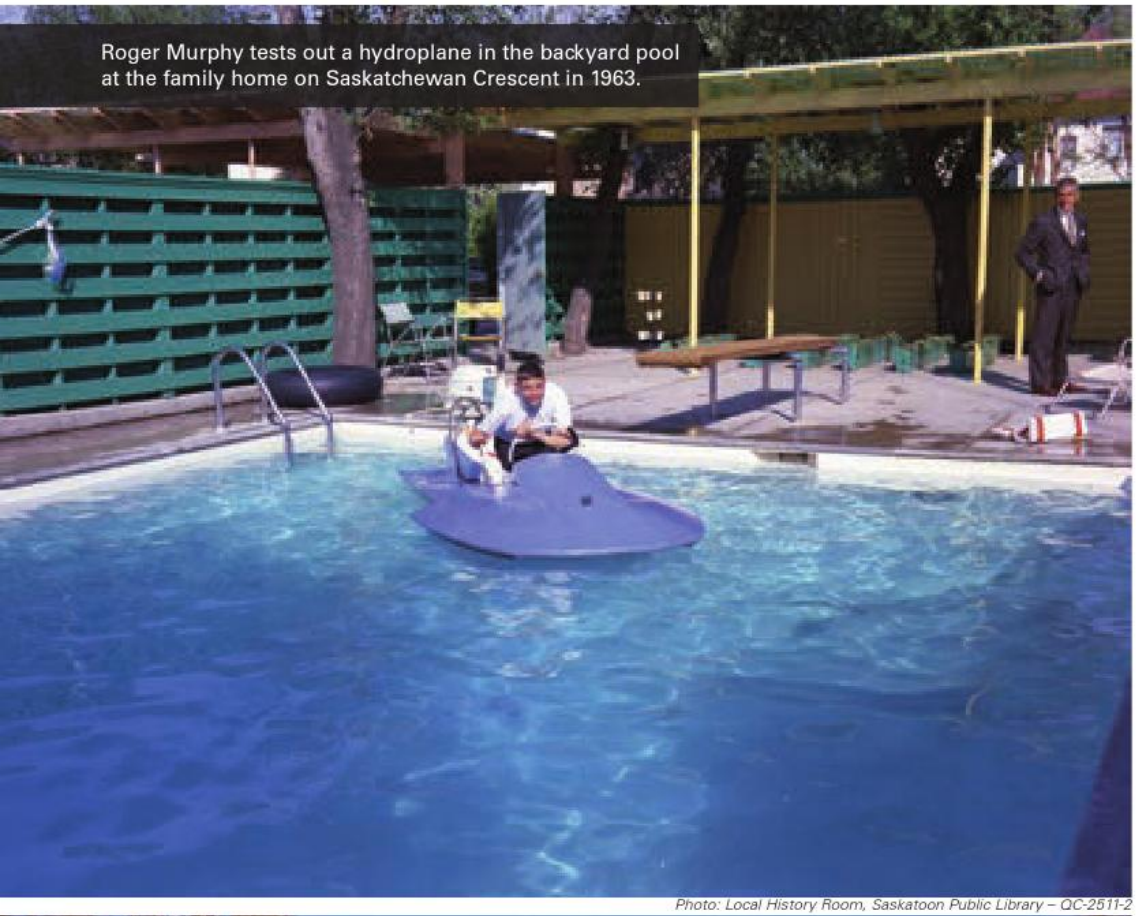
The Great Bath at Mohenjo –Daro.

Photo: Wikipedia photo by Saqib Qayyum

The oldest swimming pool we know of was the Great Bath in the ancient city of Mohenjo-Daro, in modern-day Pakistan. Built about 4500 years ago, it measured 40 x 23 feet, with a maximum depth of eight feet, which makes it rather larger than your average backyard pool but a bit shallow for diving. It may have been used more for ritual than recreational purposes. Both the Greeks and the Romans were also big on public baths, although these were more like what we would call a spa. Swimming pools in the modern sense became popular in 19th century England, with as many as six pools with diving boards in London by 1837. Swimming clubs were a big deal in England in those days, and a number of clubs built artificial pools for practice and competitions.

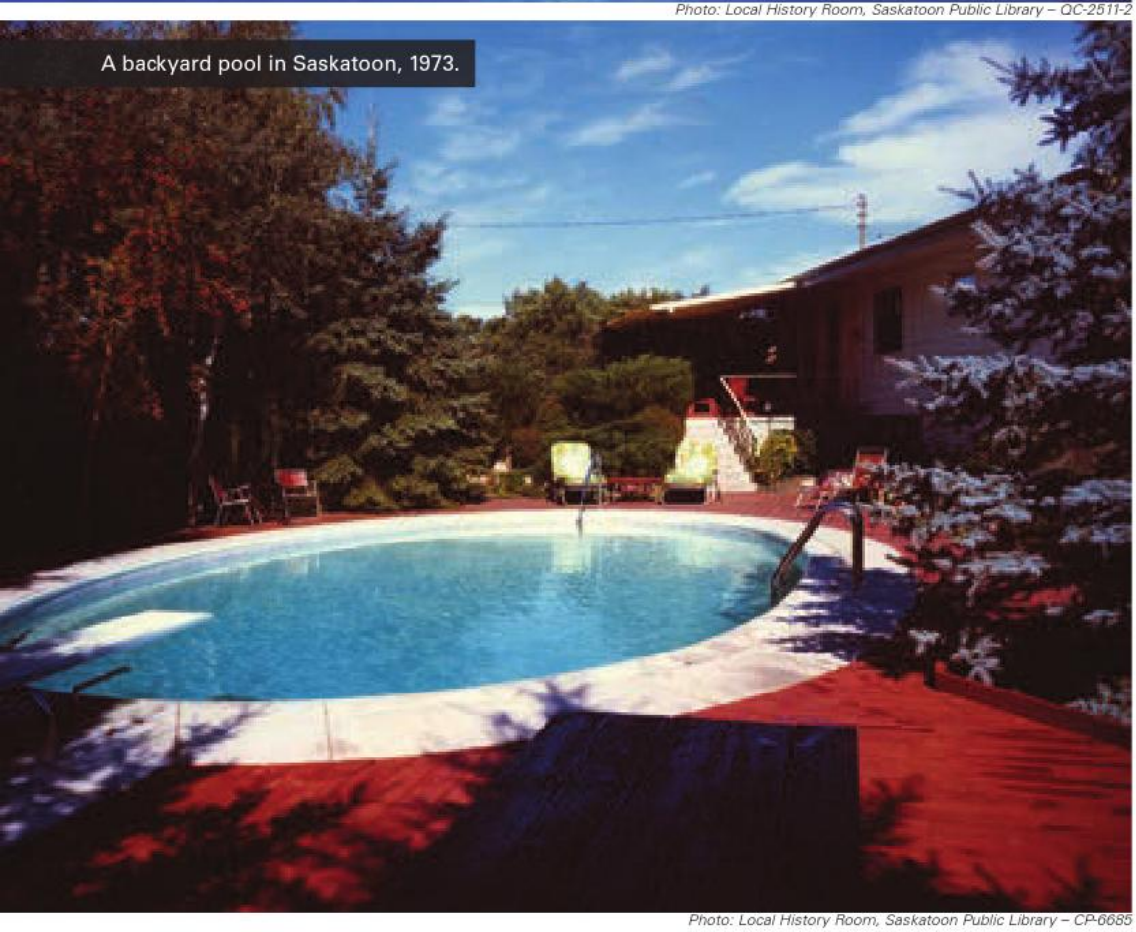
But even in relatively modern times, pools were often as much about public hygiene as recreation. The first municipal pool in the United States opened in Philadelphia in 1883, and was a place for working-class residents (who often lacked bathing ➤





Roger Murphy tests out a hydroplane in the backyard pool at the family home on Saskatchewan Crescent in 1963.

Photo: Local History Room, Saskatoon Public Library – QC-2511-2



A backyard pool in Saskatoon, 1973.

Photo: Local History Room, Saskatoon Public Library – CP-6685

facilities in their homes) to get clean. Later, when the germ theory of disease transmission became widely accepted, cities moved away from the idea of the swimming pool as communal bathtub. Showers were installed so that bathers could clean off before they got in, and the pools were re-purposed as sport and fitness facilities.

In Saskatoon, of course, we've always had the river. But the South Saskatchewan is a dangerous place for the casual swimmer, and around 1912 the city established our first public bathing facility: a boomed-off stretch of riverbank on a shallow bend next to Victoria Park. In 1913, City Council rejected plans for a $30,000 indoor "civic bath house" as a luxury the city simply couldn't afford. Besides, on May 16, of that year, amid much fanfare, Saskatoon's first artificial swimming pool opened in the basement of the brand-new YMCA building on Spadina Crescent. Of course, it was men-only in those days. It wasn't until a year later that—after extensive negotiations—they reluctantly opened it to groups of "well chaperoned young women." The YWCA pool wasn't built until the 1950s.

Saskatoon didn't get a fully-public swimming facility until Riversdale Pool opened in Victoria Park in 1924. This first Riversdale Pool was pretty primitive. The water was unheated and unfiltered, and the pool decks were sand, which must have made for a rather murky swimming experience. At intervals during the day, everyone would be ordered out and the water chlorinated using a burlap sack full of chloride of lime, which was attached to ropes and dragged through the pool while a small child clung ➤

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Mayfair Pool, ca. 1959.

Photo: City of Saskatoon Archives



Swimmers, ca. 1918. Is this Saskatoon's earliest private swimming pool?

Photo: Saskatoon Public Library, Local History Room – PH-91-82-20



to it, bouncing up and down to spread the chemicals more evenly through the water.

You can't write a history of swimming in Saskatoon without mentioning Penguin Park (also named at one time Penguin Village by a different owner). Built at the height of the water slide craze of the 1980s, the park on Idylwyld Drive North opened in August of 1986 and featured several death-defying runs including a near-vertical 72-foot drop. As the popularity of outdoor water slides waned, so did that of Penguin Park, which eventually closed. In 1993, the slides were dismantled and ➤



Opened in 1986, Penguin Park was an outdoor water park that holds a special place of memories for many Saskatonians.

Photos: Richard Marjan, The StarPhoenix



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Saskatoon's Municipal Bathing Pond, ca. 1924.

shipped to a park in Wichita, Kansas.

Private, backyard swimming pools are a more recent phenomenon, both in Saskatoon and in North America generally. Once limited to the mansions of the rich, the number skyrocketed in the decades following the Second World War, as the growing and increasingly affluent middle-class began adopting a suburban lifestyle. Backyard pools became a status symbol that, with the help of new construction techniques and cheaper materials, was suddenly within the financial reach of a great many people.

It's impossible to say when or where Saskatoon's first backyard pool was built. There is a photograph at the library which might show a pool as early as 1918, but it seems unlikely, and staff there were doubtful it was even taken here. Olympic skier, socialite and political activist Diana Wright always said that she and husband Jim built the first pool in these parts at their acreage near Grasswood in the 1950s. Alas—we couldn't confirm that or find a photograph! But there



Photo: City of Saskatoon Archives D500-IV-342

would have been pools here by 1960, the first year "Swimming Pool Equipment" was listed in the Yellow Pages. There were two companies listed that year, Redi-Mix Concrete and Family Pools (agents for "Paddock of California" and "Esther Williams Swimming Pools", respectively). By 1969, there were seven companies offering swimming pool related services in the Saskatoon phone book, about the same as today.

Although private, in-ground swimming pools would have been built in concrete back then, this is not the case today. Marc Benard, whose family has operated Saskatoon Home Pools since 1971, says that they are simply too expensive compared to modern pools, which have a steel frame and a vinyl liner. While there are still concrete pools in Saskatoon, he tells us, they are all older, and there are very few of them left. We weren't able to get the exact number of pools in Saskatoon, but it seems to have remained fairly stable since the 1980s, with city records showing a slight net increase (about ➤

Like backyard pools, hotel and motel swimming pools also proliferated after the Second World War. The growing popularity of "driving holidays" in the 1950s and '60s led to an explosion of small, mom-and-pop motels along every highway, most of them boasting "Colour TV and a heated outdoor swimming pool!" Beginning in the 1980s, the number of these declined in the face of competition from large chains. Today, while there are still motels with outdoor pools along our nation's highways, you won't find one in Saskatoon.



"The Oasis" at the Sheraton in the 1970s.

Photo: Local History Room, Saskatoon Public Library – QC-2511-2



The Holiday House Motel on 8th Street, in the 1960s.

Photo: Local History Room, Saskatoon Public Library – PH 2010-123

50 pools in total) in the last five years.

Where are these pools? Detailed records are not readily available. But a search through Google Maps shows that while backyard pools can be found throughout the city, they are most common in the suburban neighbourhoods on the south and east sides, particularly in areas like College Park, Eastview and Lakeview. Curiously, backyard pools frequently appear in clusters, perhaps marking the location of skirmishes in the endless struggle to keep up with the Joneses.

Backyard pools are regulated by the city which requires, among other things, that homeowners have high, unclimbable fences and locked gates to control entry. It was not always so. In 1969, prompted perhaps by the drowning death of a young boy at the Holiday House Motel a couple years earlier, then-Alderman Cliff Wright asked the city to investigate the current state of safety regulations for private pools. As it turned out, there were none, and the first municipal bylaw was passed in 1971.

Even in Saskatoon, with its long, cold winters and short, busy summers, people are passionate about their pools. They are our own, private oases; places to lounge in secluded, sunlit luxury, protected by our high fences from the clamorous noise of the city. As to whether pools increase or actually decrease the value of a home, one source we found suggested that you should think of them more as a lifestyle investment rather than a financial one. Either way, it doesn't seem like they'll be going away any time soon.

Jeff O'Brien



ASHLEIGH MATTERN HEATHER FRITZ

THE EDIBLE YARD

Permaculture Applied

When Heather Lake and Jon Henderson look at their property, they see their yard in terms of inputs and outputs.

"If you look at a lawn, there's a lot of inputs, but not a lot of outputs," said Jon. "So to benefit the most from our little postage stamp of property in an urban environment, we knew permaculture was the key to unlock productivity."

The term permaculture is the combination of the words permanent and agriculture. The intention is to create landscapes that are sustainable and self-sufficient, often using plants that have edible qualities.

Permaculture design mimics natural ecosystems, focusing on perennial plants that complement each other and involves designing water capture and storage into ➤







the yard. The result is a garden that is sustainable and self-sufficient.

One of Jon and Heather's goals was to make their front yard as easy to deal with as possible. The design includes swales and carefully chosen walking paths so water will be held on the property as long as possible. Layered gardening with a variety of trees, shrubs and plants builds a functional ecosystem. Essentially, the yard mulches itself, composts itself and harvests its own water.

"The hope is that ultimately all we'll have to do is a bit of fruit harvesting and everything else will take care of itself," said Heather.

Permablitz

Jon and Heather's adventure in edible landscaping started through their involvement in the environmental activist community in Saskatoon. They signed up for a "permablitz" in the fall of 2013, planning their yard with a designer over the winter, and on May 31, 2014, a troupe of volunteers descended upon their yard to start the change.

The day of the permablitz, anywhere from 10 to 20 people will show up ready to work. After a short introduction and orientation, the team tackles any projects or tasks needed to transform the yard. At least one mini-workshop is held during the day to teach attendees sustainable gardening skills.

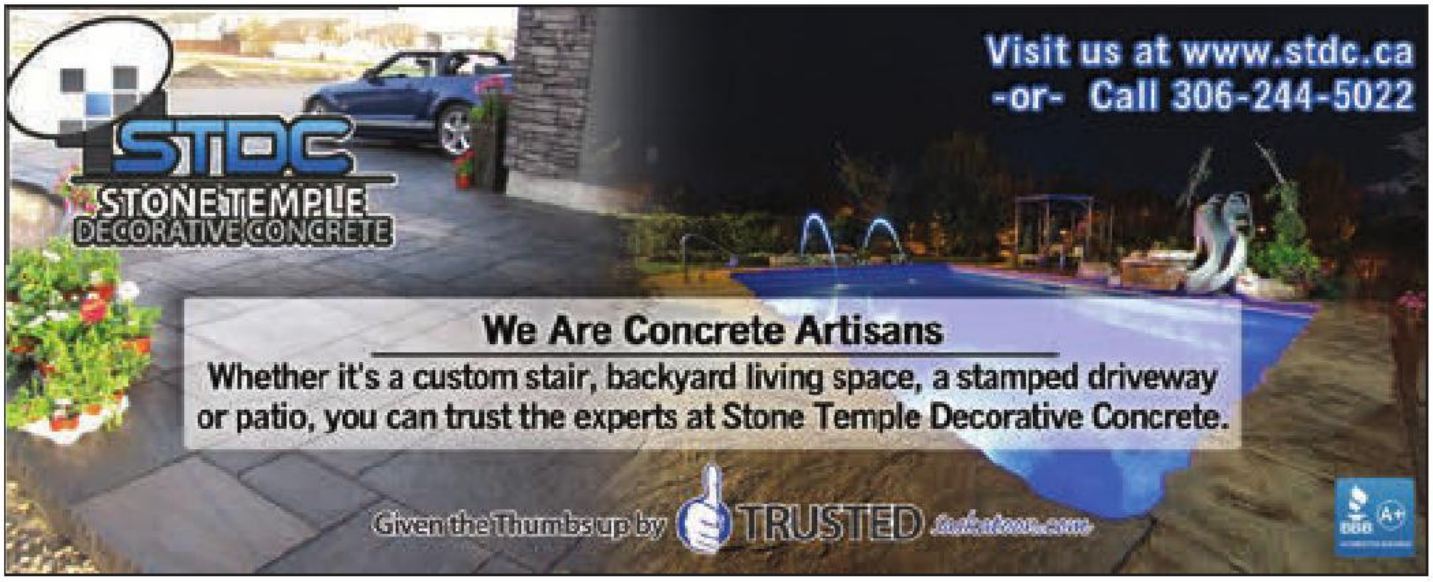






Each permablitz will be different, depending on the yard and the people who live there, and also on the designers who are working to change the space. Water harvesting structures might be built, or planting might ➤

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get started.

"Ours involved a lot of digging," said Jon.

Nearly 20 people attended Jon and Heather's permablitz. They dug trenches, removing that soil to be used in someone else's yard, they put in mulch and cardboard and compost and rebuilt an herb spiral.



"It felt like a barn raising," said Jon. "It was a great community building experience."

PermaSask: Planting Seeds of Inspiration

The permablitzes in Saskatoon are organized through the Permaculture Research Institute of Saskatchewan. The consultations with designers and the blitz are free, but you need to become a PermaSask member for a nominal fee, pay for any materials to be used in your yard, provide lunch for the workers and participate in at least three other blitzes during the season.

PermaSask is spreading the word about permaculture design, and helping homeowners transform their yards with edible landscaping. The design can be tweaked to any end, whether that's providing food, displaying an array of ornamental flowers, fixing nitrogen levels in the soil, or supplementing an annual garden.

"It's a design system," said PermaSask board member Kirby McInnis. "It's a set of tools and techniques we use, but it's very flexible. It's not necessarily a set of hard and fast rules."

Increase the Output of Your Yard

Counter to popular opinion, many perennial food-bearing plants thrive in Saskatchewan: Apples, cherries, grapes, apricots, pears, black currants, saskatoon berries, blueberries, cranberries, raspberries, strawberries, asparagus, chives, mints, oregano, sage, thyme... and the list goes on. With the right design system, these perennials can provide food with very little maintenance.

"It still takes tending—there's no such thing as a no maintenance yard—but it will produce stuff for you and takes less work than a lawn," said Kirby.

Some tending needs to be done in the spring, like pruning and clean up, but once they get going, perennials can generally hold their own with weeds. In the fall, you harvest.

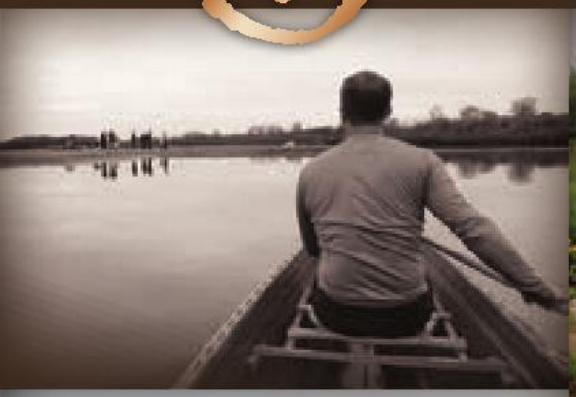
And Kirby notes that from purely a landscaping perspective, permaculture yards ➤

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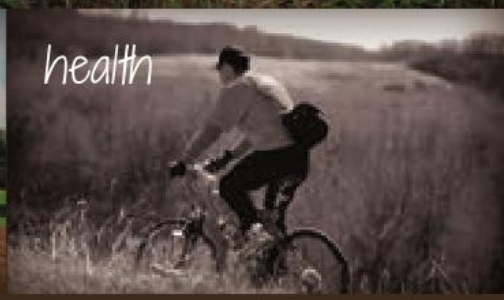
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- Shrub layer (currants and berries)
- Herbaceous layer
- Rhizosphere (root crops)
- Soil surface (ground cover crops)
- Vertical layer (climbers, vines)

look great with their mix of textures and creative layouts.

The flexibility of permaculture is exactly why Heather recommends the design technique to "absolutely anybody."

"When you put that much initial input into a yard like this, you can get the most beautiful and vibrant and amazing piece of land, but it's also for people who want a low maintenance yard," she said.

Ashleigh Mattern





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